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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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CIS Summit on 16 Apr Moved From Yerevan to Minsk

LD1304113093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The CIS summit scheduled for April 30 in Yerevan was moved to Minsk and will take place on April 16, according to the CIS working group staff.

The main issue on the agenda is the creation of a consultative and coordinating council of the Commonwealth.

Heads of government are also expected to attend the meeting.

The summit is to discuss the appeal of the Russian president to the Commonwealth made in March, according to the source.

CIS Charter, Collective Forces on Agenda

OW1204162493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Well-informed sources in Moscow have told Interfax that the CIS leaders intend to meet in Minsk next Friday [16 April]. The member nation presidents are expected to discuss the CIS Charter and implementation of the Collective Security Treaty. (The former has been signed by seven and the latter by six out of the ten CIS member nations—IF [INTERFAX]). Economic issues are also likely to be discussed. Unconfirmed reports say that the summit will be convened on the initiative of President Nursulatan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

The office of the Armenian president has confirmed that a summit will be held in Minsk. The earlier decision to hold a meeting of the Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments in Yerevan April 30 is said to remain in force.

Nazarbayev has held telephone talks with Presidents Boris Yeltsin of Russia, Albufaz Elcibey of Azerbaijan, and Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia. The press office of the Kazakh president reports that "in the course of exchange of views the heads of states agreed on the desirability of continuing active peace-making efforts by Russia and Kazakhstan aimed at cessation of the hostilities and restoration of calm and order in the (Transcaucasian) region."

Central Asian Summit Scheduled for 22 Apr Canceled

LD1004205193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2034 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat April 10 TASS—The regional meeting of Central Asian state heads scheduled for April 22 in Ashgabat will not be held, ITAR-TASS has learnt.

It is unclear whether the meeting was postponed or cancelled, the reason for this decision and the name of regional state head, who changed the plans are also unknown.

The general discussion will possibly be held in specific visits of state heads to Turkmenistan, where Uzbek President Islam Karimov will arrive on April 15 and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev - on April 19.

Sources at the Turkmen President's Press Service told ITAR-TASS, it was not Ashgabat that initiated the meeting cancellation. In his turn, President Saparmurad Niyazov sees no prospects for the creation of a priority common market on regional principles and calls for equal bilateral relations with all former Soviet republics.

In the opinion of the Turkmen president, these relations are based on a more solid and efficient mechanism of cooperation and satisfaction of mutual interests, which cannot be considered apart from previously-shaped relations.

Yeltsin, Nazarbayev Agree To Coordinate on Karabakh

LD1204122093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1146 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 12 Apr—The presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan have agreed to coordinate their activities in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Kazakhstan president's press service reported that the telephone conversation took place today [12 April]. After an exchange of views, the heads of state agreed to continue their peacemaking efforts with a view to stopping military actions and returning peace and order to the region. They agreed to coordinate their efforts to obtain a peaceful settlement of the conflict, including efforts within the framework of the CSCE Minsk group.

The press service also reported that Nursultan Nazarbayev talked on the telephone with Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

Baltic States Ready To Help House Russian Troops

OW0904090893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0530 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Baltic states welcome U.S. President Bill Clinton's plan for rendering Russia assistance in building housing for the Russian servicemen coming back home, says the joint statement by the Council of the Baltic States which, on the initiative of Estonian President Lennart Meri, was also signed by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and by Chairman of the Latvian parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

It was announced during a press conference in the Lithuanian parliament on Thursday [8 April], that this program would help ease tensions in Russia and in its relations with neighbors.

The statement says that the Baltic states have gained experience in building housing for the Russian servicemen leaving Eastern Europe, and that they offer their all-round assistance in implementing this program.

"We are ready to meet with American and Russian officials at any time and in any place to discuss participation in this program," says the statement.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Apr

LD1304073493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0507 GMT 13 Apr 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—By ITAR-TASS: Today's press highlights the forthcoming all-Russia referendum scheduled for April 25. Newspapers differently evaluate its consequences and advise readers on how to answer the questions asked in the ballot-papers.

The government newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI devotes a whole page to the subject of referendum. It recommends that readers answer the first question in the affirmative—as to whether they have confidence in Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "It is now clear even to any layman that Boris Yeltsin is the only political figure capable of counterbalancing the absolute power of the councils," the newspaper points out.

News analyst Andrey Kolesnikov believes that the second question of the referendum "do you approve of the socio-economic policy being pursued by the president of Russia and the government?"—is senseless and that it has been "imposed upon society by counter-reformers".

Political scientist Georgiy Satarov advises people to answer the third question—about the need for an early election of the president of Russia—in the negative. Satarov recommends those who intend to support Yeltsin's policy to be attentive when answering questions put in the ballot-papers.

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI advises people to say yes in response to the fourth question of the referendum—about the need for an early election of people's deputies.

PRAVDA believes that answers should be simple to the utmost and must be "no, no, yes, yes".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA comments on the results of last Sunday's elections of the first president of Kalmykia. Describing the elected president, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, 31, a businessman, the newspaper at the same time recalls that a Russian deputy presented documents testifying to Ilyumzhinov's involvement in financial machinations with 14 million roubles assigned to Kalmykia from the Russian budget for the purchase of wool from the population and the ostensible sale of 40,000 tonnes of fuel oil abroad by him. According to the newspaper, the documents are to be considered soon in the parliament of the Russian Federation, of which Kalmykia is part.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs an interview with Boris Fedorov, Russian vice-premier and minister of finance, who describes the complex state of affairs that has developed in the financial and banking systems of the country.

"All our differences with the Central Bank are caused by the fact that people there continue to play at the old Soviet Gosbank," Fedorov said. According to him, 70-80 per cent of centralised credits do not come back. Fedorov believes that the country will arrive at approximately the following industrial pattern: 50 per cent of enterprises will be reorganised independently, another 20-30 per cent of enterprises will be assisted by the state and the rest will have to close down.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an interview with Colonel General Vladimir Ivanov, commander of the Space Defence Forces of the Russian Defence Ministry, who said in particular that "about 3,000 people keep combat vigil at the control panels every minute. Every 24 hours, there are more than a thousand sessions of communication with orbiting spacecraft, of which there are now 180".

Reporting a G7 foreign and finance ministers' meeting, opening in Tokyo on Wednesday, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI points out that the peculiarity of the meeting will be that basic orientations of support for Russian reforms will be announced there.

PRAVDA recalls that a trial of the State-of-Emergency Committee members begins on Wednesday. The newspaper regards the trial as a political one. PRAVDA Maintains that "many lawyers that are well- known in the country have no doubt as to the absurdity of charges brought against the committee members and the lack of tangible proofs of their guilt".

Kozyrev: Tougher Sanctions Against FRY 'Untimely'

LD1204175393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1737 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The adoption by the U.N. Security Council of a resolution to toughen sanctions against the present Union Republic of Yugoslavia is an "untimely" move, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev believes.

Commenting at the ITAR-TASS request on the forthcoming meeting of the council, Kozyrev said "Russia will obstruct once again today an approval of the pertinent resolution in the Security Council to enable the parties to the conflict to reach, with international mediation, a compromise on the basis of the Vance-Owen plan."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned on March 9 that any of the parties that will not move towards an accord will assume the responsibility for bloodshed with all consequences ensuing from this, including possible new decisions by the Security Council, Kozyrev said.

This is why it should be amply clear that Russia now gives one more but already the last chance which should be used primarily by the Serbian side to reach a realistic accord. [sentence as received] Certainly, provided the ceasefire that was observed in Bosnia in the last few weeks continues to hold and any actions that could be evaluated as "ethnic cleansing" be abandoned, Kozyrev stressed. [sentence as received]

If the chance is missed this time as well, the Security Council would have to take the most decisive measures, Kozyrev added.

Vows To Block UN Resolution

OW1204171993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said on Monday [12 April] that it would be premature for the United Nations Security Council to tighten its sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia. "Today Russia will once again prevent such a resolution from being approved in the Security Council in order to give the parties in the conflict the opportunity to reach a compromise on the basis of the Vance-Owen plan and with international mediation," he said.

Back on March 9, the minister said, Russian President Boris Yeltsin had warned that any party unwilling to compromise would bear the responsibility for any bloodshed or other consequences it might have, including new Security Council resolutions.

"It must be absolutely clear that Russia today is providing, above all to the Serbs, another, but this time the last chance to reach a realistic agreement. This would naturally be on the condition that the ceasefire in Bosnia which has been observed for the last few weeks is not violated, and that no acts are committed that might be regarded as ethnic purges," Kozyrev said.

If this chance were missed too, the United Nations Security Council would have to take "most resolute measures," he concluded.

Seeks Two-Week Postponement

LD1304083893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0802 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations April 13 TASS—Russia officially moved on Monday to postpone for about two weeks a U.N. vote on tighter sanctions against Yugoslavia.

"This motion was prompted by our desire to work again for some time with the parties involved in the Bosnian conflict, primarily with the Serbian side, which refuses to sign the Vance-Owen planned agreement," ITAR-TASS was told by Russian permanent delegate to the United Nations Yuriy Vorontsov during a break between the council's consultative meetings. "The point is to give them the last chance to agree to this plan within the said two-week period and to sign the necessary documents. If these two weeks prove unresultative [as received], the problem of adopting a resolution imposing tighter sanctions on Yugoslavia will face us in all its magnitude".

"Today there are definite signs that the matter may be settled amicably," the Russian ambassador stated. "Leader of the Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic wants to meet Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairmen of the coordination committee of the international conference on former Yugoslavia. American special envoy, Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew has urgently left for the region. Russian special presidential envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin is to arrive in Belgrade on Tuesday for the second time over the past few days. This means that there are fresh chances to find ways to resolve the problem. And this opportunity should not be missed. It is necessary to exert joint efforts vis-a-vis the intransigent side in order to persuade it to adopt the Vance-Owen plan," Vorontsov noted.

Danger in Sending More Troops to FRY Noted

MK1004115093 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No 40, 10 Apr 93 (signed to press 9 Apr) p 1

[Report by Oleg Cherkovets under the "World and Us" rubric: "Another Afghanistan?"]

[Text] The Security Council resolution banning air flights by the warring sides over Bosnia, unfortunately, may mean the possibility of the commencement of a large-scale intervention by the North Atlantic Alliance in Yugoslavia.

Reaching a reasonable compromise between the conflicting sides is vital in order to prevent such an intervention. What can be of help is the acceptance of the Vance-Owen plan.

The plan, albeit not perfect, still appears to be "the most comprehensive and realistic foundation for the establishment of a lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina," according to the leadership of the new Yugoslavia that comprises Serbia and Montenegro.

If the plan is acceptable as a foundation, however, its details need finalizing both by the world community in general and by the key powers. The thing is that the Vance-Owen plan, including annexes thereto made by the U.S. Administration (the so-called Clinton plan) call for a deployment of a fairly significant NATO force under a UN "peacekeeping" mandate once a peace agreement is concluded.

The fact is that the would-be "peacekeepers" belong to NATO and their proposed strength, which makes them look more like an occupation army, cannot but arouse certain concerns. For the ashes of the Bosnian war will be smoldering for some time to come even after the main fire dies down. Provocations of various kinds on the part of those who are not interested in seeing the war stop are also possible. Then the peacekeeping forces will easily turn, in the eyes of the population, into a real occupying army. What can follow is easy to imagine: During World War II even Hitler's elite 300,000-strong army reinforced by an equally strong contingent of its allies and satellites, including the Croat Ustashi, was unable to do anything with the Yugoslav guerrillas.

In order to exclude the possibility of a future conflict it is essential to determine carefully the strength, location, sites, and the ethnic makeup of the peacekeeping forces. Should so sensitive a mission be entrusted to such a militarily and politically lopsided bloc as NATO? There is still time left to consider setting up genuinely neutral forces. What appears to pose an even greater danger are the allegations circulating in the foreign press that Russia, too, "will have to send" as part of the NATO contingent in Bosnia its own units and in greater numbers than the single battalion that has been operating there as part of the UN forces since last year.

Let us recall that the Russian battalion has already suffered its first losses. How many casualties will there be after a division or an entire corps are brought into the Bosnian mountains? Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev remarked recently on the subject that "Russia does not need a second Afghanistan."

Making a decision like this will require, if not a national referendum, then at least the most thorough review by the Supreme Soviet or even at a Congress of People's Deputies. And what do we have now? The Western capitals appear to be willing to decide for us whether we are going to get involved in the Yugoslav conflict! But what is more dangerous is that we seem to be moving to meet them halfway. How else should we interpret a report in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE alleging that the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on behalf of the Russian president saying that "Russia considers the possibility of a Russian contingent joining these (peacekeeping—O. Ch.) forces?" The FINANCIAL TIMES has also reported Russia's willingness to "cooperate" with NATO.

Can these plans, which are dangerous for the peoples of both Yugoslavia and Russia, really come true?

Reactions to Prospective Yeltsin Visit Mixed

OW1204191493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, the Russian parliament's Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Committee Chairman, described as "wise" the intention made public Monday of President Boris Yeltsin to go to Japan on an official visit prior to the G-7 Tokyo meeting in July. Ambartsumov told Interfax that "Japan seems to be the sole great power which has funds available and to have pledged support for Russian reforms even without resolving the dispute over the northern territories."

Ambartsumov expressed confidence that the visit "will contribute to remedying the harm done by the postponement of the president's visit to that country scheduled for last September." Ambartsumov assumes that at the meeting of G-7 foreign and finance ministers April 14-15 which will be attended by Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, "the issue of the northern territories will be unofficially probed." He believes, however, that with the political situation in Russia as it is this issue cannot be resolved now.

Mikhail Astafyev, one of the leaders of the opposition Russian Unity bloc, told Interfax he was unimpressed by Boris Yeltsin's declared intention to visit Japan before the July G7 meeting. Astafyev emphasized that Yeltsin was "a statesman who is about to go, whose de facto power is nearing an end, which will be formalized de jure most probably before the end of this year."

For this reason, no matter what Boris Yeltsin signs in Japan, with the kind of relations he has with the Supreme Soviet, parliament will not endorse them. Astafyev also doubted that a newly elected parliament would.

Decision To Visit Appreciated

LD1304090193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 13 TASS—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa appreciates President Boris Yeltsin's intention to visit Japan before the G-7 summit in Tokyo this July.

Miyazawa told journalists here today that the date of the visit could be fixed during talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is to come to Tokyo on Wednesday to attend the G-7 foreign and finance ministers meeting on aid to Russia.

President Yeltsin had earlier received an invitation from Japan, which is to chair this year's G-7 summit, to meet here the heads of state and government attending it.

Japan Promises Aid, Views Kurils Separately

LD1304081693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0610 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo April 13 TASS—The Japanese Government is no longer going to link the problem of assistance to Russia with the settlement of the territorial dispute between the two countries, Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said at a press conference here today.

"Russia now seeks to join the community of free countries, and, naturally, it is necessary to help her now, disregarding all other problems," he stressed. According to Kabun Muto, Tokyo believes that the success of the reform, implemented by the Russian leadership in the interests of democratisation and the creation of a market-oriented economy, is especially important for Japan.

If Russia suffers a defeat during the implementation of its transformation and returns to communism, world peace will be jeopardized, Kabun Muto continued. At the same time he pointed out that at bilateral talks Tokyo would continue to insist on turning over to Japan the South Kuril Islands, which became part of the USSR in 1945. Kabun Muto said that he intended to set forth Japan's stand on the territorial problem again at his talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, planned for next week.

Japan Reportedly To Announce Additional Aid at G-7

LD1304085093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo April 13 TASS—The Japanese Government has decided to grant Russia an additional package of aid, amounting to 1.82 billion U.S. dollars. According to information received today from numerous sources within the Japanese cabinet, as well as to reports published in the local press, this step has already been agreed with leaders of the Japanese organisations concerned.

The new aid package is expected to be officially announced by Japanese Premier Kiichi Miyazawa during his opening speech to the G-7 foreign and finance ministers meeting in Tokyo, scheduled to begin on Wednesday. Tokyo had already promised to grant Moscow various subsidies, amounting to 2.82 billion U.S. dollars, but the bulk of this sum has still not been remitted to Russia.

The new aid package stipulates the allocation of an additional 1.5 billion U.S. dollars to ensure Japanese exports to Russia, primarily deliveries of equipment for the petroleum and gas industry. One hundred million U.S. dollars shall be earmarked to scrap nuclear weapons and utilise radioactive wastes. A similar sum will be spent on humanitarian aid, particularly food and medicines. And, finally, 120 million U.S. dollars will be allotted to the programme of aiding small and medium-size businesses in Russia.

The KYODO TSUSHIN news service reports that Tokyo had earlier planned to grant a new aid package, totalling 1.2 billion U.S. dollars. However, this sum was hastily increased after the Japanese side learned about the U.S. Administration's intention to grant Russia additional subsidies over and above the 1.6 billion sum, announced by President Clinton during his recent meeting with Boris Yeltsin in Vancouver.

Fedorov Expects 'Concrete' Decisions From G-7

LD1304092093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vycheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo April 13 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Boris Fedorov, who arrived in Tokyo today, has expressed the hope that concrete decisions on aid to Russia would be achieved during the G-7 foreign and finance ministers meeting in the Japanese capital.

"We expect the proposals on aid to Russia, which have been discussed over the past two months, shall become much more concrete and shall include quantitative parameters," he told ITAR-TASS at the Tokyo international airport of Narita today.

Fedorov expressed the hope that during President Boris Yeltsin's meeting in Japan this July with participants of the G-7 summit "it will be possible to thrash out all the problems" pertaining to Western aid to Russia's reforms.

The vice-premier noted that Moscow "is looking forward to comprehensive financial aid to the Russian reforms". In his opinion, "there is reason for the West to render aid to Russia, because the reforms are continuing and democracy is developing in our country".

Meets Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister

LD1304102593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo April 13 TASS—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov, who has just arrived in Tokyo, has met personal representative of the Japanese prime minister and Deputy Foreign Minister Koichiro Matsuura [name as received]. They discussed a number of problems dealing with bilateral relations, well-informed sources told ITAR-TASS. According to the sources, the first meeting of the Russian deputy prime minister was unofficial and was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Fedorov and Koichiro Matsuura discussed some questions dealing with the conference of foreign and finance ministers of the G7 countries on assistance to Russia, which opens here on Wednesday, the sources reported.

Although no official reports have come so far about the talks held by Fedorov and Koichiro Matsuura, the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency believes they could discuss preparations for President Yeltsin's meeting with G7 leaders during a regular G7 summit, due to be held in Tokyo early in July.

Gromov Refutes Japan's Nuclear Dumping Allegations

LD1004051393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, has refuted reports in the Japanese media alleging breaches by the Russian Navy of the London convention on pollution at sea. Referring to a map of radioactive waste burial sites in the Okhotsk Sea, which had been distributed in Japan, the Navy commander said Russia had never breached the London convention, even though Russia had not signed it. In his words, there could be a question of radioactive liquid waste, which does not exceed natural background radiation. In addition, the burial at sea of the nuclear reactors from the icebreaker Lenin and several submarines was conducted observing all safety measures.

DPRK Develops New Surface-to-Surface Missile

PM1304101593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "DPRK Intends To Supply Iran With Intermediate-Range Missiles"]

[Text] Beijing—The economic crisis which has gripped North Korea is not preventing it from boosting the production of new categories of arms. The DPRK is now close to concluding tests of a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 1,000 km, foreign diplomats in Beijing claim. According to their data, Pyongyang could begin series production of these missiles, technically superior to the Soviet "Scud" missiles, by year's end. As a result, President Kim Il-song and his son, who personify supreme power in the republic, will gain additional trumps in dealing with the United States, which is worried by the North Korean nuclear program.

Customers willing to acquire the missiles have already been found. Pyongyang was recently visited by a high-ranking Iranian military delegation. It is believed that Tehran will more than likely be the first purchaser of this North Korean product.

The prospect of missile proliferation across Asia has prompted the United States, as well as Japan which lies well within their range, to take certain diplomatic steps. According to a Department of State spokesman, Washington has notified Pyongyang of its concern.

Judging by statements made by Secretary of State W. Christopher, the United States still advocates that the UN Security Council should deal with the North Korean nuclear program. Christopher has not ruled out the possibility of applying sanctions against the DPRK if it does not give up its intention to withdraw from the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

To put it briefly, by pursuing its militant policy, the DPRK is running the risk of becoming, like Iraq and Libya, one of the international community's "pariahs." True enough, China is actively opposing Pyongyang's isolation. Speaking at a 6 April press conference, PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jiangming declared that pressure and sanctions could only complicate matters.

The puzzle, however, is whether Beijing is prepared to take on a direct clash with the United States at the Security Council for the sake of its former socialist camp ally.

DPRK Censures Russian, U.S. Position on NPT

LD1104070293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0629 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Nadashkevich]

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (TASS)—North Korea censured on Friday the statement by the United States, Britain and Russia and also the Russian-U.S. Declaration on the results of the Vancouver Summit containing concern over North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT].

A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry underscored in his answers to questions from a KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (KCNA) that the country was forced to quit the treaty as a "self-defence" measure being subjected to the growing nuclear threat from the United States. [sentence as received]

The spokesman accused the U.S. of the open violation of its commitments under this treaty and attempts to dictate its will to other countries and international organisations. According to him, the so-called nuclear issue of North Korea was submitted for the consideration of the U.N. Security Council exactly as a result of "unlawful actions" by the U.S. and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Instead of giving North Korea a guarantee of the non-use of nuclear weapons against it, Washington introduced it in South Korea and resumed the Team Spirit manoeuvres which are viewed by Pyongyang as a rehearsal of nuclear warfare against the republic.

Pyongyang believes that by its suspicion about the secret development of nuclear weapons in North Korea and the bid to impose a special inspection on North Korea, Washington tries to disarm it, without enabling Western countries to establish relations with it, and ultimately to abolish the socialist system in North Korea.

The spokesman noted that the so-called nuclear issue is in its essence only the American-North Korean problem, therefore ways for tackling it need to be found only at negotiations between the sides.

He also pointed out that Russia's position "cannot be passed over in silence." "By describing itself as a major country, being unable to solve duly its involved internal matters and the problem of nuclear weapons in the CIS countries, putting in peril peace in Asia and around the world, it joins actions by other major states. This is incomprehensible. It is desirable that Russia, as a depository of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, think about its actions," the North Korean spokesman said.

Korean War Documents Given to United States

LD1004163693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1427 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr—The Russian side has provided the United States with an additional package of documentary materials from the Soviet archives, which shed light on U.S. Air Force planes shot down during the Korean War in 1950-53. This was disclosed today at a news conference summing up the results of the fourth plenary session of the joint Russian-U.S. commission on U.S. prisoners of war and those missing in action, which was held in Moscow on 8-9 April.

The Russian cochairman of the commission, General Dmitriy Volkogonov, said that the U.S. has been given documents showing the crash sites of 140 U.S. Air Force planes shot down by Soviet anti-aircraft batteries that participated in the fighting on the side of North Korea. Locations of U.S. planes shot down by Soviet fighter aircraft are to be handed over at the next session of the commission in September. The total number of U.S. aircraft destroyed by Soviet air defense units during the war amounted to almost 1,000, Volkogonov said.

He added that it has not been possible to confirm reports that at least one of the captured U.S. pilots was imprisoned in the former USSR. Malcolm Toon, U.S. cochairman of the commission and a former U.S. ambassador to Russia, said this is the issue that worries him personally and the U.S. public most of all. He said that the position of the Russian Government, which has still "not given a concrete answer as to which of our pilots were killed and which survived and what happened to them next," was "incomprehensible" to him. He cited reports received by Americans from some ex-Soviet nationals, saying that they knew of American POW's being forcibly kept in Soviet prisons and camps.

Our commission will continue its work, Toon stressed, to clarify this matter completely. He also said that the United States would "help Russia in all possible ways" in searching for and freeing the former Soviet servicemen captured in Afghanistan.

PRC Ambassador Meets With Security Minister

LD0904132793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Video report by Vladimir Kalinovskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting took place today in Russia's Security Ministry between Wang Jinqing, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC in the Russian Federation, and Army General Viktor Barannikov, the Russian security minister.

During the conversation, all aspects of cooperation between the two states were addressed, including the struggle against international criminal organizations and economic and political problems.

The implementation of an agreement, signed during President Boris Yeltsin's trip to China, between Russia's security minister and his Chinese colleague, was analyzed. The meeting demonstrated absolute mutual understanding and a steady tendency towards mutually beneficial cooperation.

PRC Naval Commander Notes 'Close Cooperation'

LD0904200593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1810 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Zavinovskiy]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 9 TASS—Vice-Admiral Zhang Lianzhong, commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's Naval Forces, arrived on an official visit in St. Petersburg on Friday. Here he met the commander of the Leningrad naval base, Rear Admiral

Vladimir Grishanov, to get information about the purpose and functioning of the base, the maintenance of its personnel and coordination with the military district's troops.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Zhang Lianzhong said "the Chinese Navy is closely cooperating with the Russian fleet". "As for the prospects for the development of relations with the Russian Navy, they are determined by the borders of our neighbouring states. We believe the extension of friendly ties between our countries and armed forces to be an important stabilizing factor in the Pacific region", he pointed out.

Later in the day, the Chinese navy commander visited the Admiralty shipbuilding amalgamation and the naval academy.

Visits Northern Fleet

LD0904212593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1821 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Novikov]

[Text] Murmansk April 9 TASS—Commander-in-chief of the Chinese naval formations Zhang Lianzhong who is currently on an official visit to Russia, visited the Russian North Fleet today. This is the first official visit of a representative of the Chinese Armed Forces at such a level for the whole history of the existence of the Russian North Fleet. Zhang Lianzhong met with Commander-in-Chief of the North Fleet Admiral Yerofeyev, visited the heavy aircraft carrier "Admiral Flota Kuznetsov" and familiarized himself with the military equipment.

Ends Visit to St. Petersburg

LD1104160993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Zavinovskiy]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 11 TASS—"Friendship between the peoples of Russia and China is going ahead no matter how the political situation develops", Zhang Lianzhong, commander of the Chinese Popular Liberation Army's naval formations, told TASS before leaving St. Petersburg on Sunday.

This was the first visit by China's navy commander to Russia. While in St. Petersburg, Zhang Lianzhong visited the city's shipbuilding plants and studied the projects of warships which are now being built here.

The Chinese navy commander left St. Petersburg for Moscow. After that he is scheduled to fly to Russia's Far Eastern city of Vladivostok for familiarizing with a situation in the Pacific Fleet.

Gorbachev Leaves for U.S., Comments on Referendum

LD1004162793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Gorbachevs left for the United States this morning in a private U.S. plane. Some reports say that the purpose of their trip is to take part in the celebration of the 250th birthday of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States. Others say that Raisa Maksimovna needs urgent medical help which she cannot get in Moscow.

Before his departure, Mikhail Gorbachev said that he was not going to take part in the referendum on 25 April because it was other people's political game.

Referendum 'Waste of Time'

LD1104121093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev, who is currently on a private visit to the United States, has called the forthcoming referendum on 25 April a waste of time. He also said 25 April would be the decline of President Boris Yeltsin and called for immediate multiparty free elections.

New Telecommunications System Inaugurated

LD1004105293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Petrenko and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Apr—Russians have received the most up-to- date and reliable telephone link with 170 countries thanks to the major international communications complex Moscow-St. Petersburg-Copenhagen, the festive opening ceremony of which took place today at the building of the International Autonomatic Telephone Exchange in Moscow. The Russian Ministry of Communications, together with the "Intertelecom" joint-stock company, and two Danish companies—"Telecom" and the Great Northern Telegraph Society—initiated its creation.

Taking part in the ceremony was Russia's President, Boris Yeltsin. He held direct talks on the new line with Denmark's Prime Minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen. Boris Yeltsin recalled that 500 years ago Peter the Great had signed a Treaty of Friendship with Denmark and had for the first time opened a window onto Europe. "So today we are for the second time opening a window onto the world community," Russia's president said. He noted that the new complex is offering immense opportunities for international cooperation, albeit for the time being only for Muscovites and the people of St. Petersburg. Boris Yeltsin expressed gratitude to Denmark's Prime Minister for taking part in this major project and asked him to convey words of gratitude to Queen Margrethe II, who also took part in the development of the complex.

To the proposal of the prime minister that an agreement should be concluded between Russia and Denmark, between Russia and the international community, in the first half of this year, Yeltsin said that he supports it and thinks that an agreement may be concluded in Copenhagen in June or July during the Russian president's visit to Denmark.

A great deal of work by Russian and foreign workers and experts preceded the commissioning of this major communications center. They laid an optical fiber cable on the bed of the Baltic Sea (the longest in the world—more than 1,200 km under water) between Kingisepp in Leningrad Oblast and Copenhagen; they built a digital radio relay line from Kingisepp to St. Petersburg and Moscow and commissioned three automatic international telephone exchanges.

It is hard to overestimate the significance of the project, in the implementation of which European, American, and Japanese companies were involved. In the former Soviet Union the system of internatonal communications had approximately 2,900 channels at its disposal, 1,100 of which Russia has inherited. Now approximately 15,000 new ones have been added to those already operating. This allows the demand of the Russian and foreign subscribers for this type of communication to be satisfied to a considerable extent. Incidentally, the Muscovites and the residents of St. Petersburg can take advantage of the automatic international communications services around the clock.

The cost of the project was 500 million rubles, or 123 million dollars. Another feature was that the financing, which was carried out by the Danish companies "Telecom" and "Gray Nordic," the American "U.S. West" Company, and also our "Intertelecom," was done without state guarantees by the Russian Government. At the same time, all structures of the complex on Russian teritory and the underwater cable line as far as the middle of the route become Russia's property.

The project will facilitate prospects for cooperation between Russia and the world community. However, as Russian Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak stated at the opening ceremony, this is still insufficient to fully meet the country's needs for international telephone services.

Therefore, the commissioning of the complex is only the first stage in creating an up-to-date digital system of international telephone communications in Russia. It is proposed that a Trans-Siberian commmunications line should be built before the year 2005; this would become the closing link in a world communications ring. It would stretch from Kingisepp to Nakhodka and to Denmark, Italy, Turkey, Japan, and Korea.

The completion of the Trans-Siberian line will open up a new means of transmitting information between Western Europe and the Far East. In the future it will become the main trunk communications network of Russia. By 1996 it is proposed that approximately 50,000 new international telephone communications channels should be commissioned.

At the opening ceremony, Boris Yeltsin presented the Order of Friendship of Peoples to a group of Russian and foreign citizens.

Clinton Congratulates Yeltsin

LD1004103793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a message to Boris Yeltsin, congratulating him on the inauguration of three new international gateway telephone switches and a new digital link between Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Copenhagen.

The message, the text of which was made available to ITAR-TASS by the presidential press service, reads as follows:

"Free and open communication is a critical component of democracy and a prerequisite for economic growth and international trade.

"These new lines not only will improve international communication access for the Russian people, but also will promote further investment and trade between the United States and Russia. I am pleased that an American company had the opportunity to participate in this important project.

"The completion of this joint venture illustrates the mutual benefits of U.S.-Russia cooperation. Building on our new democratic partnership, which began at the recent summit in Vancouver, Americans and Russians can anticipate even greater opportunities for trade and investment. I look forward to maintaining a close relation between our two countries."

Commentator Views Clinton's First Budget

LD0904214693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] On Thursday, United States President Bill Clinton sent Congress his first budget for the new fiscal year beginning 1st October. Commentator Vladislav Kozyakov has the details:

It's often said that a national budget is a reflection of government policy. This is true of the proposals submitted to Congress by the White House. These reflect the policy of rejuvenating the United States promised by the Democratic leaders during the election campaign.

The draft budget is geared to objectives that have long been talked about in the United States. For one, considerable cuts in defense spending—as much as $10 billion. Another objective is large-scale measures to lessen the budget deficit by $500 billion in the next five years. Also more than $16 billion will be invested in the infrastructure—in building roads and bridges, promoting communications and education, retraining the unemployed, and developing high technologies.

Fairly recently such reorientation of the United States economy to solving internal problems would have seemed unrealizable. In the conditions of global military confrontation between Moscow and Washington the White House and Congress had other priorities. The result was large-scale waste of means and resources in recent decades. About $4 trillion was spent on military purposes.

Now an opportunity has come for both Russia and the United States to stop the process and even to reverse it. At present one can probably say that the United States lags behind Russia in reorienting its economic potential to civil needs. Although the proposals of the White House are referred to as a drastic cut in defense spending, they stipulate leaving practically untouched the Star Wars program and a number of other armament programs conceived in the years of the Cold War. The inertia of dogmas that are hard to part with is apparently making itself felt. But the present dangers, whether local conflicts or the proliferation of weapons or terrorism—no matter how serious—can hardly be compared with the threat to international security latent in the recent confrontation of Moscow and Washington.

But as they say, once you've made a good beginning you've done half the job. The new draft budget shows that internal problems, or, as President Clinton has said, investing in people and putting people first, are beginning to be a priority for Americans.

Today there's the unique opportunity to obtain unprecedented peace dividends. This shows how the changes in Russia are affecting the lives of other nations. Americans, too, can appreciate the democratic changes in Russia and the new partnership between Moscow and Washington. If not for the reforms in Russia, the United States' innovative plans could hardly become a reality.

Aeroflot, U.S. Investors Plan Airline Venture

LD1004084093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0736 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Washington April 10 TASS—A group of American investors and the Russian airline "Aeroflot" have combined efforts in a bid to set up a joint air-transportation enterprise which is to begin airlifting cargoes all over the world at the end of April, the "North American-Aeroflot" company press release, signed by its President David Ziegfrid says.

Planes belonging to this joint company will airlift cargoes from the United States to Luxembourg and Moscow. Returning to their main base in Columbus (Ohio state) via Russia's far east and Anchorage (Alaska). [sentence as received]

Ziegfrid said that the company will play a significant role in airlifting cargoes. In his opinion, the project is in full coordination with the call of the Clinton Administration to American firms to develop partnership with Russians.

According to Ziegfrid, the transportation at its initial stage will be accomplished with the help of 3-5 well-known Russian "IL-76" planes which are designed to carry over 36 tonnes of cargoes each. The company plans for a start to make four flights a week.

The company president expressed confidence in its success. According to him, Russia, which is creating a market economy, needs spare parts for its purification installations, clothes, medicines and computers.

"North American-Aeroflot" began charter flights to Siberia in October-November 1992, accumulating an initial capital of 800,000 dollars. 300,000 dollars of the sum had come from Russia, and the rest half a million were contributed by small U.S. investors. The company now plans to accumulate 5 million dollars, as well as create 500 new jobs for Aeroflot and 500 ones for the Americans."

U.S. Aid Seen Helpful But Not Critical for Reforms

MK1004101293 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No 40, 10 Apr 93 (signed to press 9 Apr) p 1

[Article by Yevgeniy Chernov, FEDERATSIYA observer: "At Last Foreign Countries Will Help"]

[Text] Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin had a wonderful time in Vancouver. They smiled dazzling smiles (even Yeltsin), said "thou" [ty] to each other (presumably in Russian), swore allegiance to a final transition from confrontation to partnership. Most important, they agreed that America will help Russia—morally and financially.

Do you remember what joy was caused among the Gaydar team early last year by the IMF promise to grant $24 billion to Russia? What happened to those billions? The legendary billions disappeared into thin air. And all that remained, they say, was tens or maybe some hundreds of millions. Yet nobody, except the hawk-eyed bookkeepers, had noticed these. Nobody ever explained coherently to us where they went, into whose pockets.

Nevertheless one should not think that these dollars did not come in handy for anybody. In the spring of 1992, though being nothing but a mere promise, they became a weighty argument in the propaganda campaign that got under way with the start of the economic reform. It was not until later that people finally realized that the extension of the credits was rigidly linked to the execution of the IMF's unfulfillable conditions.

It was announced in Vancouver that the United States would extend $1.6 billion to Russia. This is not very much, compared for example to how much Germany spent on us last year and compared to what we actually need. But it is not so little either. At any rate, apparently the sum is more than we have actually received from the IMF. Provided, of course, that these dollars eventually reach us. The Americans, however, are sure of this: They will be allocating hard-currency funds to implement concrete programs and are also going to oversee their execution strictly. Yet what is important is not the U.S. aid in itself—other developed countries may follow the United States (Canada has already taken its own steps). A still bigger role for the Russian economy could be played by the expected lifting of restrictions in reciprocal trade with Western countries.

Yet it is not the extent of U.S. credits that is the most important thing here. The most important thing was when Clinton proclaimed his generosity and his unequivocal support for Yeltsin. It was no accident that this happened a couple of weeks after the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies and two weeks before the referendum. It is precisely the dramatic collision between the executive and the legislative branches that propelled the U.S. Administration toward decisive action.

Apparently, to stimulate the development of a "new Marshall plan for Eastern Europe," all it takes is a squabble on the Russian Olympus. Well, maybe Yeltsin and Khasbulatov deliberately put on that show in order to spur the West into action.

Seriously though, in my opinion, the Americans, confident, as always, of the omnipotence of money, have miscalculated this time. Now we have little trust in the unselfishness of rich countries. Even the most rabid pro-Westerners in this country have ceased to divert the public with talk to the effect that without Western aid Russia's economic reforms are doomed to failure. Our people already know that in overcoming the crisis they can and must rely primarily on themselves. Therefore, in saying "yes" or "no" in the referendum, the Russian people will not be looking over their shoulder at the West, but will be proceeding solely from their own convictions.

Commentary on Effects of Vancouver Declaration on Trade

LD1004141693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Anatoliy Potapov commentary]

[Text] Apart from being a weighty political document outlining the vital aspects of Russian-U.S. cooperation, the Vancouver declaration will no doubt bring a change in Russia's relations with other leading Western countries as well. A view from Anatoliy Potapov:

Mr. Clinton, speaking at a news conference in Vancouver, stressed that real opportunities were being opened up for cooperation in such vital areas as power engineering, space exploration, environment protection and nuclear safety—all of which must also be of interest to other Western countries. And of course they stand to benefit from assisting Russian gas and oil industry. Mr. Yeltsin may well be right in stressing that Western support to Russia must not be seen as charity or concession, but rather as a joint contribution to the world's future.

However, mutual confidence is needed and suspicions of the Cold War period must be dashed aside for such cooperation to work. This also applies to lifting trade restrictions against Russia.

It seems to be unjustified that COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] regulations banning the export of high technology to the former Soviet Union should continue in force against the now democratic Russia. Nor should there be any reason to try to impose restrictions on Russia's arms and uranium exports—one of its sources of foreign exchange revenue which can help towards the country's economic recovery.

The U.S. anger over Moscow's sale of cryogenic engines to India must have been caused by commercial interests of United States companies. The deal is in no way a breach of international regulations on monitoring the spread of missile technologies because those engines cannot be used in missiles of military obligation. Russia is ready to compete in world markets but fairly and without any bias.

Russia's drive to boost up exports can also be helped following the United States agreement to back up Russia's membership of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT]. This can help the country to abide by GATT's rules and laws in export trade, something that's also included in an outline agreement between Russia and the European Community.

To put it in a nutshell, the new quality partnership laid down in cooperation agreements between Russia and Western countries is worthwhile keeping intact.

Commentary Accuses Ukraine of Seeking Nuclear Status

AU1004180493 Moscow Radio Moscow in Romanian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton: "How Long Will the Nuclear Weapons Stay on Ukraine's Territory"]

[Text] From the point of view of the number of the nuclear weapons deployed on its territory, Ukraine ranks third, after the United States and Russia. The strategic missiles and bombers in Ukraine are equipped with some 2,000 nuclear warheads. Their destiny is not clear.

Ukraine intends to preserve administrative control over its nuclear weapons, thus behaving like a nuclear state. The authorities in Kiev have given up their pledge to eliminate all nuclear weapons deployed on Ukrainian territory by 1994 and are in no hurry to abide by their repeated statement regarding adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Ukraine has joined the START I treaty regarding the reduction of offensive strategic weapons, but it is in no hurry to ratify the treaty, something that hampers the nuclear disarmament process. All this raises a perfectly logical question: Could Ukraine be attempting to become the sixth member of the nuclear club?

The United States, Great Britain, and France have expressed their concern in this respect, linking the possibility of developing economic and other relations with Ukraine to solving the nuclear weapons problem.

A statement by the Russian Federation Government emphasizes that the nuclear weapons temporarily deployed on Ukrainian territory have to be (?returned to) Russia. In its response, the Kiev government firmly rejects the request, stressing that Ukraine wants to preserve its right to ownership not over the nuclear weapons themselves, but over their nuclear components.

This statement stresses that Ukraine does not have the capability of unilaterally using these nuclear weapons, nor does it want to have that capability. Despite this, the Ukrainian Government avoids answering questions about the measures it intends to take to fulfill its commitments, namely to turn the republic into a non-nuclear country. Kiev authorities cite the need for security guarantees.

Russia, the United States, and Great Britain have unequivocally stated that they will offer such guarantees immediately after Ukraine complies with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Ukraine has been promised financial assistance for dismantling the nuclear warheads. A principled agreement has been reached according to which—after the processing of nuclear components in the relevant Russian plants—Ukraine, which lacks such plants, will receive part of the nuclear (?fuel) to use in power plants.

The two Russian-Ukrainian rounds of negotiations on nuclear issues have not yielded any results. Ukraine has not answered Russia's proposal on disarming nuclear weapons whose technical standards have begun to worry the experts.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk proposed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin that new negotiations begin involving specialists from the two countries. We should not anticipate any results from these negotiations. One thing is certain, however: Ukraine has to prove on the basis of its deeds that it abides by its commitments regarding the non-nuclear status of the republic.

Ukrainian Statement on Fleet Termed 'Provocative'

LD1304073793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0608 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The chief command of the Russian Navy has resolutely rejected an issue of the future of the Black Sea Fleet as interpreted by the Ukrainian defence minister, Colonel-General Konstantin Morozov.

A statement to this effect was circulated by the press centre of the Russian Navy in connection with a statement made [by] the Ukrainian defence minister that Kiev would raise the question of the complete withdrawal of the Black Sea Fleet from Ukraine if Russia refused to consider questions of the division of the Fleet and withdrawal of its share of the Fleet from Sevastopol in a single package.

The press centre of the Russian Navy believes that such statements can be regarded as no other than "provocative and aimed at worsening the situation around the Black Sea Fleet."

"Evidently, the Ukrainian defence minister is not pleased with a calm, businesslike atmosphere in which the problems of the Black Sea are being discussed on the basis of previously reached agreements and, ignoring the realities, he deliberately seeks to build up tension which might have far-reaching consequences," the statement said.

According to the press centre of the Russian Navy, at issue is political gambling on the part of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry,in which national interests of the two states—members of the Commonwealth, and fates of servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet are completely ignored.

In this connection, separate actions for unilateral subordination of units and institutions of the Black Sea Fleet to the Ukrainian Navy should be regarded as a result of a targeted policy pursued by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry in contravention of interstate agreements signed by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, the press centre of the Russian Navy said.

The statement points out that Ukraine bears full responsibility for the procrastination of talks on the Black Sea Fleet, neglect of previously signed agreements, in particular, on the norms of monetary subsidies given to servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet.

U.S., Japanese Companies Plan Chernobyl Safety Project

LD1204091293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo April 12 TASS—A large-scale project for the elimination of the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident and for the economic restoration of Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian districts adjoining the Chernobyl area is being worked out by a number of U.S. companies jointly with these republics, ITAR-TASS learned from informed Russian sources in Tokyo.

Private and state companies of a number of Western countries are to be drawn in the project. Some Japanese firms have already been invited to participate and consider the possibility. More than ten private companies are to participate in the programme from the U.S. side. Some 30 U.S. research institutions and higher educational establishments also intend to participate.

According to preliminary estimates of the Los Alamos Technical Associates, which is the coordinator of the new programme, it will take 30 years to implement the new Chernobyl project. Investments into the project should roughly amount to 100 million dollars. 20 Million dollars will be needed at the initial stage of the programme, when mainly construction operations will be conducted.

It is planned to build a new sarcophagus for the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant which exploded in 1986. Reliable containers for radioactive waste will also be built. Large-scale work will be implemented to clean the soil, reservoirs and ground waters in the areas adjoining the nuclear plant.

It is also planned to shut down the plant altogether and to resolve the problem of supplying electricity to enterprises and local residents. One of the chief purposes of the project is the reconstruction and development of agricultural enterprises to supply local residents with ecologically-pure products. It is also intended to implement several programmes, including commercial, to restore cities and regions in the area of the power plant. These aspects of the future project were discussed at working consultations late in March in Tokyo held by representatives of the governments of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, of a number of U.S. companies and of the Japanese Atomic Industrial Forum. If Japanese firms decide to participate in the programme, the forum will coordinate the programme from the Japanese side.

"It is yet early to speak of Japan's participation in the project, although we regard it in principle as reasonable and necessary", Kazuhisa Mori, executive director of the Japanese Atomic Industrial Forum, told ITAR-TASS.

He believes sponsors of the programme should first come up with a specific project, and offer it to the Japanese side. Only then will it be possible to discuss actual participation of private Japanese firms and state institutions in the programme.

Nevertheless, a large Japanese trading firm has already stated its intention to participate in the project, and its representatives were present at recent working consultations in Tokyo.

Defense Ministry Discusses Baltic Withdrawal

OW1204192193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1902 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to sources in the command of the Russian Baltic Fleet, the Russian Defense Ministry is urgently discussing problems pertaining to the withdrawal of the Russian units from the Baltic states. On Monday [12 April], Deputy-Commander of the Baltic Fleet, Vice-Admiral Viktor Kravchenko; Deputy Commander for Construction Major-General Gennadiy Shinakov and Chief of the Department of Capital Construction Colonel Sergey Laptev took part in the conference on the issue, held by the leaders of the Russian Defense Ministry.

Protocol on Commodities Signed With Czech Republic

OW1204141393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1307 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the visit of the Czech Republic Minister of Industry and Trade to Russia on April 9 a draft protocol on mutual supplies of commodities for 1993 was agreed upon. Presumably it will be signed in May or June this year. According to experts of the Russian Foreign Economic Affairs Ministry, the protocol says, Russia's exports to the Czech Republic will be the same level as in 1992, and imports will increase due to the growth in trade transactions through commercial structures.

Russia will deliver oil and gas, equipment for nuclear power stations and spare parts for aircrafts to the Czech Republic in exchange for food purchases, spare parts for the equipment already delivered and oil-chemistry products.

In 1992 the trade turnover between Russia and Czechoslovakia was $3.6 billion, two-thirds of which was with the Czech Republic and one-third of which was with the Slovak Republic. Russia's exports to Czechoslovakia practically remained at the level of 1991 (about $2.7 billion), while imports decreased by 40 percent (currently $0.9 billion).

Last year Russia's exports to Czechoslovakia mainly consisted of oil and gas (85%), as well as raw materials (5.5%), machinery and equipment (3.5%), processing-industry goods (2.5%) and chemical products (2%).

Russia imported machinery and equipment (40%), consumer goods and medicine (26%), food (16%), chemical products (8%)

Glazyev Tours Brazil, Discusses Missile Technology

OW1204103993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [12 April] the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergey Glazyev went on a 7-day tour throughout Latin American countries, he is expected to visit Brazil, Paraguay, and, possibly, Uruguay.

On his arrival to Brazil the Minister is to sign an agreement on trade-economic cooperation with this largest of South-American states.

Experts of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry believe that the most perspective [as received] directions for development in Russian-Brazilian cooperation are telecommunications, aircraft building, missile technology, etc. In addition, Brazil expressed its wish to participate in modernization of oil processing and oil chemical plants in Russia.

Glazyev's visit to Paraguay, the representatives of the Ministry believe, is the first move to conclude a bilateral trade-economic agreement. Russia can propose to Paraguay, which predominantly imports industrial goods, electro-mechanical equipment and potassium fertilizers. For its part, Paraguay can deliver agricultural products, namely meat, soy beans, and fodder grain to Russia.

Qatari Foreign Minister Discussses Arms Sales

LD0904141993 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpt] We reported earlier that a delegation from the State of Qatar led by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, the foreign minister of that country, paid a two-day working visit to Moscow. The head of the delegation was received by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. He also had talks at the Foreign Ministry and at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

Before the departure of the Qatari delegation yesterday, Shaykh Hamad Al Thani held a news conference on the outcome of the visit. Our radio correspondent attended this meeting. Here is his report on this news conference:

[Unidentified correspondent] The head of the Qatari diplomacy has noted that the visit of his delegation to Moscow was fruitful to both countries because the two parties discussed developing bilateral cooperation and regional, Arab, and international questions of interest. Therefore, it can be said that this visit provided a new impetus to promoting multi-faceted relations between Russia and the State of Qatar.

The minister then answered journalists' questions.

[Begin Shaykh Hamad Al Thani recording] We have touched upon the peace process in the Middle East. Naturally, there are a few reservations by the Arab cordon states regarding the attendance of these talks scheduled for 20 April. We have felt that Russia is backing the Arab viewpoint and is very interested in the progress of these talks.

No doubt Russia is suffering from some difficulties; however, we hope that she will assume her full role in the peace process. [end recording]

The journalists asked Shaykh Hamad Al Thani to give his views on the selling of Russian weapons and military hardware to Arab countries in general and to the Arabian Gulf states in particular. The minister stressed, in this regard, that Russia is a great power led by a wise leadership, which is fully aware of the meaning of its actions and is capable of making a sound decision as to whom weapons can be sold. [passage omitted]

St. Petersburg Mayor Meets Israeli Absorption Minister

LD1004053693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2003 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolai Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg, April 9 (TASS)—The development of relations between Israel and St. Petersburg was in the focus of attention at today's meeting between St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak and Israeli Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban.

The mayor pointed out that the city's cultural ties with Israel are quite extensive, while contacts in the sphere of production remain rather casual and insufficient. "We are interested in attracting investments from your country to create joint ventures on the basis of Israel's modern technologies", Anatoliy Sobchak stressed.

According to the Israeli minister, Russian culture is a factor of great importance for his country's life. All in all, over 200,000 people emigrated to Israel from St. Petersburg, which means that the number of Israeli tourists visiting the Russian city will constantly increase.

The participants in the meeting stated the need for working out concrete joint projects.

Yeltsin Seeks Talks on Baykonur Cosmodrome

LD0904155293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has asked Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to discuss the problems of Baykonur Cosmodrome at a bilateral meeting in May, 1993.

In a letter addressed to the Kazakh president, the Russian president suggested deepening cooperation between the two states in the maintenance and active use of the Baykonaur Cosmodrome, which meets the interests of the two countries and the whole mankind.

The letter pointed out that the normal activity of Baykonur Cosmodrome demands tremendous material and intellectual resources, special efforts and uneasy solutions. However, a number of serious problems have appeared which, if not resolved, would narrow the potential of this big space complex and will pose a serious threat to its future. In many ways it is connected with the fact that a clear cut mechanism of realising the achieved agreements and treaties has not been formed yet, primarily on such key issues of the operation of the cosmodrome as a legal status of Russian military formations, without which the cosmodrome would have been paralyzed, and principles of share financing, providing personnel, ensuring law and order and safety on the cosmodrome.

Officer on Arms Transfers to Tajikistan

OW1004160293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with Interfax, the deputy commander of Russia's 201st motorized rifle division Colonel Anatoliy Ivlev said that acting on agreement reached during the recent visit by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to Tajikistan, Russia had started the transfer of army hardware under control of the Tajik government. The Colonel said the Tajik Defense Ministry had already assumed control of the hardware of three motorized rifle battalions.

The Colonel's division will be stationed as a Russian unit in Tajikistan till 1999 and, as soon as the Tajik armed forces can stand on their own, will move all its hardware under control of the Tajik Defense Ministry.

Colonel Ivlev saw that as a fair decision because for 70-odd years Tajikistan had been paying dues to the Soviet Defense Ministry and received nothing when the Ministry had ceased to exist.

Armenian Envoy Confirms Reports of Azerbaijan Offensive

LD1004191093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent L. Ioffe; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Feliks Mamikoyan, Armenia's permanent representative in Russia, has confirmed the report of the Karabakh side: a large-scale offensive on Karabakh and the Lachin corridor has been launched from Azerbaijan's Kelbadzharskiy rayon. For several months, long-range guns received from the Caspian flotilla were fired from Kelbadzhar, and Karabakh residents started to develop, as it were, the Shusha syndrome: after all, some time ago Grad shells fired from Shusha literally tore Stepanakert apart.

Armenia's position is unchanged. It wants an immediate cease-fire and a start to negotiations. Armenia is happy to see Russia in the role of mediator —and Russia has already offered its services.

[Begin Mamikoyan recording] In this case, I believe, the initiative should turn to some specific mechanisms. I believe that Armenia and Azerbaijan are at present ready for this. [end recording]

Mamikoyan noted that he maintained continual working contacts with Hikmet Hajizade, Azerbaijan's representative in Moscow, whom he respects. Thanks to these contacts, the sides succeeded to some extent in solving humanitarian problems, such as POW's, hostages, etc. In the view of the Armenian diplomat, one prospect for settling the conflict might be a federation of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. But this ought to be decided solely by the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. If their views are not taken into account, any process of negotiations is doomed to failure.

Parliamentary Delegation Head on Moldova Visit

OW0904195693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1859 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Russian parliamentary delegation Pavel Lysov has told Interfax he is satisfied with the results of the three-day visit to Moldova. In particular, he emphasized the agreement to form an interparliamentary group on the political, social, economic, military and cultural spheres.

Lysov said he was optimistic about relations between Moldova and Russia. He believes that the Russian-Moldovan summit meetings and the latest changes in the leadership of the Moldovan parliament have produced a chance to normalize bilateral relations.

The Russian people's deputy said that as the delegation visited Trans-Dniestria [as received] and held meetings with the leaders of Moldova, a settlement of the conflict in transdniesteria [as received] was discussed. He said that to resolve the conflict the sides should "come to the negotiating table and work really hard." Lysov voiced the hope that the joint inter-parliamentary Moldovan-Russian group would incorporate deputies from the parliaments of Moldova and transdniesteria, who are not taking part in the world [word as received] of the parliament.

The Russian delegate said that the presence of the 14th Army was "the most complicated problem at the current stage of the settlement and the establishment of bilateral relations." He voiced the hope that negotiations underway in Chisinau with the participation of 14th Army Commander General Lebed would help resolve the problem.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets With Moscow Aviation Students 12 Apr

Views Situation, Problems

LD1204190293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1520 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Address by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin to students in Moscow Aviation Institute on 12 April—recorded]

[Text] Dear friends, I am pleased to meet you. We were just trying to remember how many times I have been your guest, three, four or five, but in any case it is no less than three. I believe that in a student lecture hall you have to talk about the most important things frankly and openly, primarily because you will be living in the new Russia.

I want to discuss a few of the most important economic issues with you. I am ready for pointed questions, and I expect new ideas from you—the student environment has always been rich with them. You are entering into independent life, or more specifically you have already entered it. This is not happening at the best possible time, but however difficult it may be, I believe that we are now going through one of the very few times in Russian history when it is possible to break out of the vicious circle, to become a normal society at last, a normal state where people want to live and of which people can be proud. The Japanese, the Koreans, the Spanish and many other peoples who are no less original and no more able than ourselves have put aside fruitless conversations and idle talk and dreams; they have started down the well-trodden path of civilization and have achieved real major success in a short space of time.

In order to build a normal life we need an idea of Russia. I am asked all the time: What Russia should we have? The main idea of Russia is a strong power, enlightened patriotism, freedom, market economy, private ownership, such as on the land, order, protection, first and foremost social protection of citizens, strong and rich provinces, decentralization of power, preserving the integrity of Russia, its federalism and general accord. I would also like to add that it is freedom and not anarchy, it is private ownership and not a plundering and unlawful appropriation of somebody else's property, it is order and not dictatorship, it is accord and not like-mindedness on the basis of suppressing an opinion which is different. Many people in Russia are already professing these principles. The more people there are like us, the sooner we will overcome the painful transitional period. I am convinced that these positions are dear to you, young people, too. It is not accidental that I have mentioned this.

On 25 April, the citizens of Russia are to make a decisive choice in the referendum. I think you understand that whatever questions are put to vote at the referendum, the choice to be made is not between this or that leader, not between the congress and the president. The main thing is now at stake—the choice between two strategies: Whether we are going to continue our onward movement, gleaning experience as we go along, learning from the whole world and correcting our mistakes, or else surrender into the hands of the people who want to retreat, who are prepared to put an end to the reforms, and that means, to Russia.

I understand the extent of the risk of an all-Russian poll. People are weary, indifferent, and irritated, but there is no other path at present. All possibilities of a compromise and attempts to reach an agreement have been used at the top. Unfortunately they have brought no results. There is one last reserve left—the verdict of the people themselves.

Not one previous regime in the history of Russia could decide on this step. This was because we have only ever had rulers and subjects, whose lot was to subordinate themselves to the will of the powers above. They were never consulted, just ruled. Now we live in a different Russia. To act more decisively at this critical moment, I need to enlist the support of the electorate. We should make this decisive choice together. This is the right of every free person who feels and accepts responsibility.

I believe that on 25 April we will all be capable of passing this difficult test of our maturity as citizens. I believe that the citizens of Russia will be able to confirm that we not only talk of freedom but also know how to be free, and that we will be able to make Russia a genuinely free country.

It has become almost a fashion today to portray our recent past as a period when life was in all respects happy, settled, and calm, and people had enough to eat. I do not remember students being well fed, at least during my time. My advice to you is not new: Do not believe talk about a socialist paradise, about benevolent soviet power. I remember my student days well—these are, of course, the brightest years—and youth was still youth under Stalin. But there was another side—the endless tests in politics, the informers and the so-called enemies of the people, the strict system of allocating jobs after graduation, the pitiable pay for young specialists and the ban on combining jobs, to name only a few things.

The fact that we underestimated the needs of young people when we embarked on the reform was not a new approach by reformers. It was a tradition we have had for many years and which we could not change overnight, but it has to be changed. In January 1992 we got down to the most difficult task—the political and economic rebuilding of Russia. We can even now see its results. We can also see mistakes, of course. The main problem is that we hesitated and retreated too frequently. In January 1992, the main thing was to prevent famine and disruption of transport, heat, and energy supply. There was a gloomy certainty that these things were possible. Nothing of the kind happened. I am sure that if the reform continues, it will not happen. We will prevent the disintegration of agricultural production, although we have not managed to avoid a slump in livestock rearing. There is not and there will be no famine in the country, but I stress here yet again—only if the reform will continue. Millions of our compatriots own plots of land now and hundreds of thousands of them took up farming. All this happened without some kind of destruction of the system of collective and state farms. Prices were freed from administrative diktat. The stranglehold of the general shortage of goods has significantly eased.

However, the total deficit has been replaced by a high level of inflation. It affects people's well-being and slows down production. It also devalues money, wages and people's savings, and makes investments in production unprofitable. Mediation is becoming the most attractive sphere of business. The fight against inflation is our main problem. We know how to solve it. When we act resolutely and radically, we get results. Here are some of the monthly indices of inflation for this year, month by month: January—27 percent, February—25, and March—17. Last year we maintained this tendency to start with, but gave in to pressure. Prices shot up and the standards of living plummeted. This is the real price of a compromise, the so-called stabilizing role of congresses.

Of course, by restraining inflation now we can only slightly slow down the growth of prices. There is only one conclusion here. We must act more professionally and be tough when necessary. Then we will resolve that problem, which means that we will manage to stabilize the standards of living.

A wide-ranging privatization is under way in the country. It proceeds at a faster rate in the sphere of trade and consumer services. Half the enterprises in these spheres are no longer controlled by the state, and in some regions, this figure is 75 percent. A total of 60,000 private enterprises and 5,000 major joint-stock companies have been set up in a year. Hundreds of voucher auctions have already been held at which ordinary citizens acquired shares in over 800 large and medium-sized enterprises, including the Volgograd and Vladimir tractor plant, the Lenin automobile plant, and others.

I should like to emphasize that there has been no drop in output at privatized enterprises. It is significant that only a small proportion of individuals have sold their vouchers. This means that people count on more, they count on buying shares, on receiving profits, on becoming owners.

Conversion is gathering pace. It is unprecedented in scale. So far, it is proceeding with difficulty. However, contrary to pessimistic forecasts, the conversion has not caused either massive job losses or a social catastrophe, and it will not cause either now, not least because the output of civilian products at defense industry enterprises has shown the most dynamic increase. Even last year, and that was the year of crisis, their output increased by 9 percent.

There is a myth circulating round the country at present, and the time has come to dispel it. I refer to the so-called avalanche slump in production. Don't you believe it. The total volume of output has stabilized in the past few months. The only exception is January, because of one week being lost due to holidays, but as early as February, stabilization was once again on the cards.

At the same time, we are still not showing enough care for our home-grown entrepreneurs. We have so far failed to adequately protect their interests, to ensure equal opportunities for them.

In the old days, it was the enterprises with access to state funds that were in a privileged position; now it is those who succeed in obtaining preferential credits and export licenses. There is just one road that leads there, that is through bribery, and you should also have strong elbows to force your way through, and a loud voice.

There are, of course, objective circumstances, which very much hinder our progress. I am sure you know perfectly well how distorted our production structure is. It cannot be put right in a day.

However, there are also reasons of a different kind. To a large extent, it is the legislature that is responsible for the hardships associated with the reform. Despite the fact that millions of signatures of the people of Russia were collected, the Supreme Soviet has so far not enacted any regulations relating to the right to have land in private property. Soviets in the provinces, at least some of them, are putting artificial obstacles in the way of allocating land to individuals. The outdated legislation is in practical terms showing indulgence toward embezzlement of state property. The Supreme Soviet has for a long time hindered the timely adoption of a law on bankruptcy. This resulted in insolvent debtors enjoying, in effect, full impunity. Due to imperfections in the banking legislation, clearing centers of the Russian Central Bank find it easy to evade responsibility. This is why you sometimes do not receive your scholarships in time. They are the real culprits in the delays of payments, which have a devastating effect on enterprises and organizations. Finally, the Supreme Soviet is practically sabotaging the adoption of a new constitution. In short, had the legislative fabric been strong, there would have been no need to apply to it numerous patches in the shape of presidential decrees.

However, whatever the case, a significant amount of work on economic transformations has been done within a year. There is a basis for getting out of the crisis—there will be no second shock like the one which had to be endured at the start of last year. There is no need for that, and no objective reasons for it. The time has come to catch one's breath and to move up a gear for the next stage of reforms.

We are entering a more certain, consistent, and predictable stage in carrying out transformations. The main task will be to ensure proper order in the economy, and in society as a whole. Consequently, the load on the state will increase. There are, at present, increasing calls to make the reforms more humane. We are in favor of this, but many take this to mean printing money. If we do not want this, we will have to significantly reduce the rate at which the printing presses work, and make do with what the state gets in the form of taxes and other revenue. Enterprises are wrong to further count on various types of concessions which end up involving unjustified budget expenditure.

In order to give someone a bit more, we will have to give someone else a bit less, or even tax at a higher level. In order to ensure that there are goods and services for money, we will have to fundamentally speed up the structural changes in the Russian economy. Specifically targeted state programs are needed. This is what is done in the developed countries of the world, and today, this is one of the main orientations of the government's work—programs for food provision, conversion and exports, and today we agreed on a program on student issues. [turning to man on rostrum] Is that not so, Oleg? Well, it is a good thing you came. There are jams everywhere, I understand, and not just on the roads, either.

Proper order will be introduced in matters relating to property, too, with the main thrust being to simplify bureaucratic procedure as much as possible, to give state guarantees of private property rights, and to give protection from officials and mafia organizations. I see it as the duty of the president to defend the legal rights of property owners. I can say the same about discipline in the sphere of state finances and hard currency and customs control. Even more intolerable are instances of credit speculation and attempts to support those who do not know how to work, or who do not want to.

We need to bring proper order, too, to relatively simple questions relating to the life of millions of fellow citizens. What I have in mind here, first and foremost, is easing the start-up conditions for all those who want to launch their own businesses. We should eliminate the multistorey bureaucratic edifice which is hampering the setting up of individual and family businesses and private farms. We need a well thought-out mechanism to enable property owners to gain priority access to financial resources. Here foreign assistance will stand us in good stead, but this means assistance not to bureaucratic organizations but direct to the entrepreneurs and the territories.

President Clinton and I agreed on precisely this sort of approach in Vancouver. The American package of economic assistance to Russia for 1993 is $1.6 billion; $690 million in non-returnable aid, $700 million in preferential credits, and $230 million for purchase of food and medicines. Three-quarters of this money will be channeled through non-governmental channels, bypassing the central Russian bureaucracy. One hundred million dollars will go for training of cadres, which is very important. Incidentally, 10 million... [pauses] added another 5 million... [pauses] Canada's prime minister signed up for 10 million, also for training of cadres, about 50 people a year.

Now Clinton is preparing a second package of bilateral cooperation. The Paris Club has already taken a decision to grant Russia a 10-year deferral to service 15 billion of the 17 billion debt of the former Union, payments of which are due in 1993; this is out of the total former Union debt of $80 billion.

The IMF and the G-7 countries have other interesting proposals. On the whole, I think we can talk about a certain turning point in the West's attitude to the Russian reforms. Measures for combating economic crime will be the toughest, but it is tough measures and not arbitrariness or any repressions that are involved here. If an entrepreneur sells his products abroad and uses the proceeds to buy equipment, technology, or consumer goods neccessary for Russia, should he be stopped? Of course not. Or another example. A Russian businessman invests in production abroad and then gives a hard currency order to Russian industry to supply materials or equipment—in fact, he promotes the exports. This happens very often in the world economy and everyone wins. Why should Russia be an exception?

The Russian market economy desperately needs a stable legislative basis. I am prepared to issue decrees and I will issue legislative initiatives on the following directions of the economic reform: protection of the rights of ownership, joint-stock companies, guarantees for consumers' rights, state service, banking activity, aid to refugees and forced emigrants, and giving land into private ownership, and yet another subject which is actively discussed at present. Will we not lose our industrial and technological potential in the reforms? I am convinced that we will not. Russia has been, is, and will be a world industrial power and not a third world country. It is a special country. It is a special world with its immensely rich traditions, national mentality, national culture, and national spirit. The market mechanism here will not be as harsh as, for example, in the United States, but this is not to deny, on the contrary, that this requires order in the economy, in social and political life. This mechanism will be guaranteed by the state and a strong executive power. This is in full accordance with Russian historical tradition.

State power will guarantee principles of social justice which have traditionally existed in this country. This especially applies to privatization. A necessary level of social protection for those who have the right to count on it will be ensured. Russia has enormous expanses of land, but poor communications have been its eternal problem. This is yet another argument for giving the regions greater independence in tackling their internal social and economic problems. One would think—1992 was such a hard, such a difficult year. On 10 April I was present at the opening ceremony of a unique international communications complex. Over the 70-odd years [of communist rule] we accumulated a thousand channels of international communications. By bringing into operation this complex—three stations in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Copenhagen, by laying a special fiberglass cable on the seabed, we have added 17,500 channels at once. Now fiberglass cables and, correspondingly, the construction of digital exchanges will expand further east. We have already started building such a network to go to Khabarovsk and then to Japan and Korea. It will be possible to make an international call from any telephone to any city in the world without waiting three or four days for the connection to come through, as it used to be. At least, I was put through to the Danish prime minister in five seconds, that is to say immediately. I understand of course, it took them a year and a half to get ready for that.

The single economic space in the country will be consolidated by a firm ruble, a federal budget, shared principles of economic law, an all-Russian interregional corporation, and the Federation Treaty. In all the rest, the regions will develop in the way most convenient to them. In such a huge country as ours there is a particular need for a strong, efficient government which the people have trust in.

The current government only started work in December last year, but it has already produced definite results. A plan for concrete action has been developed, approved, and put into effect. The government has succeeded in balancing the budget for the first two months of the year for the first time. A joint decision by the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank has been adopted on a 13 percent ceiling of growth of money in circulation in the second quarter, and no more—because it has been twice as much. It has been arranged that this plan cannot be deflected by any circumstance or any person, which is the most important thing.

I make a firm promise that I will not interfere in this process, to ensure that we will not push up money issue. This is where we need professionals, clever people who know about banking and know all the consequences of the huge money issue which took place in 1992. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about the measures which will be undertaken for social support for students and post-graduates. Or should I not? [noise in hall] This question was discussed today at a meeting with leaders of the student movement, that is what I call them, is that wrong? Well, there they call it an association and so on, but leaders anyway. Thirty-five leaders. [laughter in hall] We discussed it, of course not without debate. It is understood that we do not have much and you need more. This was what all the debate was about.

Nonetheless we reached an agreement after all, and I signed a decree. Here are extracts from it. To raise the grants of students in higher education establishments from 1 April this year to the level of the minimum wage, that is, 4,275 rubles. [applause] Plus a regional coefficient where applicable. To raise the grants of postgraduate students to the level of twice the minimum wage, that is, approximately, about 8,000 rubles. You do not seem to have many postgraduates left these days. Nobody is clapping. [laughter, applause]

Students and post-graduate students studying on daytime courses are entitled to a free return railway ticket once a year [applause] and students and post-graduate students who are permanently resident in regions of the far north, Siberia and the far east are entitled to an air ticket on the same basis. [applause] Additional compensation for food in student canteens will be brought in from 15 April. [applause] You will get compensation for just over half of what you spend. [stir in audience] It is difficult, you know: 2 percent of the minimum wage—multiply 2 percent by 4,275—that means 84, that is, er, 85, that means you spend 120, no, 140 rubles. Per day, I mean per day! [stir in audience, scattered applause] In addition, of course! Hm, not much applause, that means you are not eating too badly! [laughter] Or else you already eat so poorly that you have no strength left to clap! [laughter, applause]

The decree establishes 1,000 presidential stipends, worth four times the standard grant for students, and five times that for post-graduates, every year. [applause] It is offered every year, as student collectives will decide and nominate, not through CPSU Central Committee channels, but through your own student society. Another 100 presidential stipends are being introduced for training Russian Federation students and post-graduates abroad, so a total of 1,100 stipends. [applause] A special presidential fund for the social support of students.

Thus we are taking specific measures, though in today's circumstances they are of course modest, and we will continue to support students, but in two or three months time we will have to come back to the question of the size of stipends, of course.

I consider it a fundamentally important, nay, a strategic task to ensure that as many students as possible receive education free of charge. This, of course, does not mean that there is no need to develop a non-state sector in education. It is high time to devise and implement state programs of aid to the young. We agreed today about social support for studentship, a special state program, and I have already given Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the government, an instruction to this effect. What we are talking about is promoting the entrepreneurial and farming activities of young people, support for young families, guarantees of provision for social services, and support for the gifted.

A Committee for Youth Affairs does exist under the government. I remember being coaxed for quite a long time by those who wanted it to be set up. I was promised that it would work so hard that it would burn itself out, as it were. Actually, I do not see it around right now. [commotion in hall] Ah, well, it looks as though it has burned out. What a pity! [laughter] Well, of course, it has not burned out, but apparently this committee failed to establish contacts with new organizations—and quite a number of these public bodies have emerged in the students' milieu, there are 35 new students' public organizations—in order to work for a common cause.

Of course, state support for science, education, and culture on the whole is a major task. It has to be acknowledged that last year this sphere found itself in most difficult financial conditions. Whether it was a mistake or not, things can be put right, and they will be, as early as this year. We will give as much help and support as possible. Higher education institutions themselves have acquired certain experience in survival. As for students, they have behind them many centuries of tradition in this respect, I mean survival. Frankly, scholarship was never enough, not even for bare necessities. Well, I realize, of course, that this is not what we should aim for, but since Russia still faces a year or two of hardships ahead, we will have to tighten our belts a bit, but at least we will be continually monitoring the inflation level, so that you do not lag behind and do not find yourselves without any social support.

I think you will agree with me that infantilism is a serious disease among our students. I believe that the new generations that will replace you will be significantly less prone to it. I am sure that the time when Russia overcomes the flaw which has, for a long time, oppressed all of us—the triumph of mediocrity—is not far off. A normal society always has an acute need for professionalism and education, but for all this to come about, we must now champion the path to reform together. Russia has tried more than once to carry out reform over several centuries, but none of them succeeded—not once, not a single one. Unfortunately, only revolutions have succeeded. It is perhaps because of this that our lives have so far been so unsettled and badly organized. We now have a chance to change this far from good tradition, so let's make use of it.

I believe in you and your support. I believe you have already made your choice for the good of Russia, so let us defend our native Russia together. Thank you. [applause]

Further on Educational Benefits

OW1204171493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [12 April] evening, President Yeltsin is expected to sign the decree on urgent measures to support students and post-graduates. With the student leaders, Boris Yeltsin is now finalizing the draft decree in the Kremlin.

Opening the meeting, the president described the draft decree as "very serious" and said that the student leaders' proposals had been included in it practically without changes,.

According to the draft decree, the minimal student grant has will be increased to the level of the minimal wage which amounts to 4,275 rubles. Post-graduates will be paid a grant worth two minimal wages, so they will not have "to unload coal trains" to earn their living.

The president instructed the government to pay students a compensation worth about 100 rubles (1.5% of the minimal wage), beginning April 1. "This is going to be an addition to your lunch," said Boris Yeltsin.

Also, there are plans to allow students to travel by railway for free, and the students living in the Far North, Siberia and Far East - to travel by air for free, once a year.

A total of 1,000 presidential scholarships have been instituted for students and post-graduates. Moreover, 100 presidential scholarships have been reserved for Russian citizens studying abroad.

Further on Yeltsin Address

OW1204191693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated that "at least four components are indispensable for bringing life to normal: freedom, private property, order and accord". He told students of the Moscow Institute of Aviation Engineering that "we need freedom, not anarchy; private property, not the barbaric appropriation of someone else's property; order, not dictatorship; and accord, not unanimity based on suppression."

Speaking about the referendum to be held on April 25, he said that Russian citizens were expected to make the decisive choice between the two strategies: to move ahead, gaining grains of experience, learning from the world and correcting mistakes; or surrendering themselves to those who would like to roll us back to the past and bury both the reforms and Russia".

He also expressed confidence that on April 25 "we shall pass this uneasy exam and demonstrate our civic maturity".

"I am convinced that the Russian citizens will prove that they do not only talk about freedom but can indeed be free, and that they can make Russia a free country," said the president.

"In January 1992, we undertook the most difficult task of the political and economic reorganization of Russia. Now we can see its contradictory consequences and the mistakes we have made," he went on to say. "Our main mistake is that we hesitated and departed from our road too often, all of which slowed down the reform".

Speaking about the economic problems, the president put the main accent on measures to combat inflation. "We know how to handle this. When we act resolutely and firmly, we score points," he said. He also quoted this year's monthly inflation indices: 27

in January, 25

in February and 17

in March.

Yeltsin noted that last year, the government maintained this tendency but then yielded to pressure and gave up. As a result prices soared and living standards dropped. This was "the real price of conformism, the so-called stabilizing role of the congresses," he stated.

Yeltsin also said that the myth about "the so-called catastrophic economic recession must be dispelled". "Do not believe this. Over the past few months industrial production has stabilized," said Yeltsin. He also expressed the belief that the legislative authority was largely responsible for the difficult progress of the reforms. Despite the millions of signatures collected by the Russian citizens the parliament had not yet adopted the law on private property. The local authorities were artificially hampering the allotment of plots of land to citizens. In fact was parliament is blocking the adoption of a new constitution, said Yeltsin.

"Whatever the circumstances, over the year we have made considerable economic advances and created the conditions for overcoming the crisis," said Boris Yeltsin. "No more shocks similar to last year's will come. There is no need to apply any shock methods any more," he said. He also stated that Russia was entering a more consistent and predictable stage of the reforms, which would concentrate on the ensuring proper order in the economy and in society in general. This order would be maintained by the state and by the strong executive authority, said Yeltsin.

The president was convinced that "a huge country like this one needs a strong efficient government which would enjoy the confidence of the people." He made it clear that "we will not change ministers just because some political grouping wants its man in the government. What is needed are professionals, able and responsible people."

Yeltsin said that he had signed a decree whereby the Supreme Soviet is asked to adopt a resolution on increasing university students' grants to the level of minimal wages, 4250 rubles, plus regional allowances. Under- and post-graduate full-time students will be eligible for free rail travel home and back during their vacation and, starting with April 15, additional allowance for meals in students' diners. The decree provides for one thousand presidential grants equal to four times the usual minimal amount and for post-graduates, five times that.

A presidential fund for social support of students will be set up.

The president called on students to support the reform course.

"I rely on you, on your backing. I trust that you have made your choice in favor of a new Russia. Let us defend it together," he said.

Responding to questions, the president said that he would tell journalists April 14 what new steps he would take to consolidate the reform.

Asked whether he would run for presidency if re-election were called, Yeltsin replied that this would depend on the results of the referendum. The president himself would say yes in response to all the four questions. "But I will not object if you say yes three times and no to the question on re-election of the president," he added.

Yeltsin also reassured his audience by saying "if there was no violence last year, it is still less likely this year." He said that while last year Russia bought 25 Mn. [million] tons of grain abroad, this year the planned amount would drop to 7-8 Mn. Before the president started answering questions three young men shouted something like "For dismantling the country- to the prisoner's dock" and threw anti-presidential leaflets around.

Cited on Communist Party

LD1204202593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2005 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS corresopndents Anna Bakina and Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Representatives of Russia's students call on the teachers and students of all of the country's higher and secondary educational establishments to participate vigorously in the April 25 referendum and give backing to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the course of reforms, says an appeal released today at the Russian president's meeting with students in the Moscow Aviation Institute's House of Culture.

The appeal also points out that "the consistent implementation of economic reforms is possible only if there is competent executive authority which is called upon to carry out long-term transformations in the interests of the people."

It unexpectedly turned out during the meeting that a Communist Party organisation exists on the grounds of the Moscow Aviation Institute. Yeltsin said this "is a violation of the Constitutional Court's ruling", under which party organisations can be set up only at the place of residence of its members.

Asked by students how the president will vote at the referendum, Yeltsin said: "Yes to all four questions."

Yeltsin Attends Award Presentation Ceremony

OW1204165293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The fate of Russia is dependent on the April 25 referendum, President Boris Yeltsin said as he handed state awards to a large group of Russia's military, scientific, and cultural figures in the Kremlin. Speaking on the political state of Russian society the head of state noted: "We face an opponent the like of which is not to be found in America. He is a hard nut to crack. He is a cunning highly experienced opponent."

Yeltsin thinks that "times are not easy now but with all the difficulties he who works harder suffers less." This year, the president thinks, "will be a decisive year, a year of stabilization." Yeltsin discerns signs of economic stabilization: "The inflation rate has been falling for a third month in a row. The prices remain high yet but productivity is on the increase. It is stabilizing and growing in some industries." His meetings in Magadan and Bratsk convinced the Russian leader that the difficulties would be overcome and "we will bring Russia to new heights yet."

Yeltsin dismissed allegations that the U.S. side at the Vancouver summit would like to see Russia weakened. The Russian president was convinced that Bill Clinton was intent to do whatever he can to see Russia free and moving along the path of democratization and market economy. "I believe that earlier problems in the relations between Russia and the U.S. and other countries will gradually sort themselves out," Yeltsin said.

He said that Russia's entry into the market of space services, in particular profit-making space flights, had been discussed in Vancouver.

Yeltsin spoke of Clinton's intention to ask Congress to remove foreign trade and economic restrictions which used to constrain Russia's activities in the world market. The president said that Russia could trade in high technology and good hardware. "I can list scores of countries which press us for selling aircraft to them," he said.

Yeltsin did not rule out the possibility of visiting Japan prior to the G-7 meeting next July. Russia's relations with Japan, he believes, must be of the same partnership kind that Russia has with many other countries.

Yeltsin confirmed Russia's commitments to nuclear disarmament.

During the ceremony Yeltsin emphasized that it was the first time he had awarded Golden Star of Heroes of the Russian Federation as a president. In his opening address he noted, "now bagfuls of medals are not brought to the Kremlin and only those who have made outstanding contributions are awarded." (Yeltsin, the observers think, had in mind the pre-1985 period when "large groups of comrades" used to be given medals alomost monthly—IF [INTERFAX]).

The president held several meetings with Russian young people and students later on Monday [12 April].

Kostikov Accuses Khasbulatov, Rutskoy of 'Slander'

LD1204121093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov issued a thundering statement on Monday [12 April] accusing Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy of "slander" in their propaganda campaign before the April 25 referendum.

As the referendum comes closer and popular support to the president is growing the leadership of the parliament mounts the campaign to discredit and disrupt it, the spokesman said, adding that civilised norms of political struggle are being abandoned.

"Speaker of the Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov resorted to open slander" while claiming that the presidential team had levied a tax on public and creative organisations and commercial ventures to solicit money for the referendum. "This is false (statement)", Kostikov said.

Khasbulatov's unfounded accusations that the Russian Orthodox Church is also financing the referendum are "especially unseemly", he added.

Kostikov regretted that Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy joined the "campaign of slander". His latest anti-presidential pronouncements leave no doubt that he has completed the stage of "political evolution" - from minor "disassociations" to a full political split from the president.

Rutskoy has created a precedent of "political nonsense" unknown to the world practice: He was elected together with the president to implement presidential reforms, but has split from the presidential course while retaining the post of vice-president, Kostikov said.

TASS Clarifies Report on Rutskoy Statement

LD1204215693 Moscow ITAR-TASS on English 1734 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—Following the press conference by the Civil Union leaders held on April 10 and in connection with the emerged interpretations of the vice president's statements in response to the question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the news agency is compelled to clear up the situation. At the aforementioned press conference, Aleksandr Rutskoy, speaking about the missed opportunity for reconciliation with the president during the time to go before the referendum, implied the Civil Union bloc, emphasising that its members repeatedly put forward positive proposals to find a compromise formula. Therefore, Rutskoy's statement about the missed opportunity for a compromise is attributed to the Civil Union rather than the personal relationships between the president and vice president. ITAR-TASS does not have relation to other interpretations of the vice president's statements at the press conference of the civil union leaders.

Communist Workers' Party for Abolishing Presidency

OW1204191293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The growing impoverishment of the population on the one hand and organized activities by the left-wing forces on the other will help overcome political apathy in the near future and restore the Soviet government, the secretary of the Russian Communist Workers' Party Viktor Tulkin told a news conference in St Petersburg on Monday [12 April].

He said that a conference called the "Development of the Constitutional Process in Russia and the Feasibility and Possibility of Reviving Government by the People in the form of Soviets" held by the Russian Communist Workers' Party together with the union of Leningrad's workers decided to approve the draft of a Soviet constitution developed under the guidance of the people's deputy of the Russian Federation Yuriy Slobodkin.

Tulkin said delegates to the conference had "called for abolishing the institution of presidency, restoring government by the people in the form of the Soviets, developing the structures of the Soviets and adopting a constitution of the Russian Federation at a national assembly in Moscow and at popular rallies in all cities of Russia."

Organization Disagrees With 'Democratic Union' Statements

OW1204200693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The governing committee of Russia's democratic organizations (GCRDO) has dissociated itself from the leaflet made public by the Democratic Union (DU), which is headed by the committee member Valeriyya Novodvorskaya. The leaflet calls on the president "to commence the revolutionary anti-Soviet action declared in his March 20 address." In particular, the DU wants the president to disband the Supreme Soviet, Congress, and Constitutional Court "that are in the hands of communist reaction," rescind the Soviet Constitution, and impose presidential rule for two years prior to election of the Constitutional Assembly. In doing so the president could rely, the DU insists, on full backing, in particular by force of arms, from the democrats and the military support of the West.

Konstantin Truyevtsev, secretary of the Democratic Choice bloc, told Interfax that the DU appeal was "a provocation." The GCRDO wants the unlimited power of the soviets brought to an end but would not support their violent removal or decreed elimination of the legislative branch. "We are prepared to support an increased presidential power for a period of transition leading to adoption of a new Constitution, above all in order to construct a multi-level system of executive power and to see to it that in a future a democratic representative power will come into existence. But we are resolutely against increasing the presidential power to the point of direct authoritarian rule," Truyevtsev said.

Strong Executive 'Objectively Necessary' for Transition

PM1304100193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 1

[Commentary by Pavel Bunich: "Russia Needs A Strong Executive Power"]

[Text] Our society is keenly dicussing the problem: What sort of republic should we have—a parliamentary or presidential republic? In my opinion, all this talk in many ways exaggerates the significance of the question. After all, you can have a fine parliamentary republic or, on the other hand, a bad presidential republic. But the situation can also arise whereby the difference between them is so small that it is difficult to discern.

For example, imagine a presidential republic with a very small role for the president, but a more weighty role for the premier. The question arises: How does such a republic differ from a nonpresidential republic, if the premier is in the forefront? Very little.

There are quite a lot of such states, incidentally. For example, in the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, and Israel the main power belongs to the government and at the same time, all these states provoke no doubt as to their democratic nature.

On the other hand, there can be a very strong presidency with a small role for the government. What does this mean? In reality, the president in such cases is, in effect, the prime minister. He is, so to speak, the prima ballerina to the ballerina. There was such a period in our country too, when B. Yeltsin was simultaneously president and prime minister. Such a symbiosis is by no means bad.

But all this, of course, in no way means that presidential and parliamentary republics do not differ from one another, that there is no essential significance in which of them people live in. This is not the case. If a strong presidential power exists (and I do not mention a weak one; best not to create such a presidency at all), it possesses far more powers than an ordinary government.

But do we need such lofty powers? Especially in a transitional period, when it is necessary to make 10 decisions a day, or even a hundred or a thousand, when the tendency to inertia is reduced to the minimum, and when almost everything in political and economy is a novelty? I believe that we do need them. Otherwise we could dangerously delay the adoption of timely decisions.

But if you take a country such as, say, the United States, its inhabitants can get by without a president. Imagine that the president disappears for some time: Life does not stop; his duties pass to the vice president.

With us the situation is different. In ancient times people used to say that reality lay in the past, but in our country present reality has to deal with the future. When many things are unpredictable and impossible to envisage, extensive rights for the executive power are objectively necessary. They are accepted as more logical by society when there is a strong presidency.

So nowadays we should not be arguing about whether a presidency is needed in general. It is more appropriate to talk about a strong or weak presidential republic. I reply to this question in the affirmative: Russia needs a strong presidential power.

But we should not link these tenets, as we are fond of doing, with specific personalities and names. Today those who support B. Yeltsin say one thing, while those who oppose him maintain another position just because they do not like him. I would like to be talking about something different, about the principle: What precisely is necessary for the transitional period, irrespective of the president's name? I would like to be thinking not of a specific person, but of making the presidency truly strong, not weak and good-for-nothing, a mere figurehead like the queen of England. And if we are to introduce a presidential republic, we must be sure to introduce a strong and authoritative one.

State Emergency Committee Defendants Ready for Trial

LD1204122393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1203 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Nikolay Semenenko]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The defendants and their counsels for the defence have finished the reading of materials of the case on the State Emergency Committee and are ready for the trial, which begins on April 14, Nikolay Pechenkin, Dmitriy Yazov's counsel for the defence, told CRIME PRESS today.

According to Aleksey Galoganov, counsel for the defence of Valentin Pavlov, neither the defendants, nor their lawyers are interested in procrastinating or disrupting the trial. All the main participants in the trial will come to the court room when they are told to, he said.

Counsels for the defence of members of the State Emergency Committee said they intended to prove at the trial that the defendants are not guilty of the crimes of which they are accused, specifically, high treason in the form of a conspiracy for the purpose of seizing power. Some of them are also accused of the abuse of authority.

It is quite probable that at the beginning of the trial some lawyers may object to the counsels of the defence and to people's assessors who, according to Galoganov, are subordinated to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev as army officers. Grachev will take part in the trial as a witness. Galoganov said as well that he would like foreign journalists to be allowed to attend the trial together with Russian journalists.

'Working Moscow' To Provide 'Moral Support'

OW1204133593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Activists from the "Working Moscow" movement will picket the building of Russia's Supreme Court on Wednesday [14 April], when the trial of those who attempted to stage a coup in August of 1991 begins. Moscow's government issued a permit for the action.

The picketing will begin at 9:00 [0500 GMT] and go on for about an hour and a half. The movement believes that its action will give the accused moral support.

The defendants themselves intend to gather at 9:00 on April 14 outside the "Ivushka" cafe in Kalinin Avenue, where they will probably make a statement for the press. According to the lawyer of one of them, participants in the trial are dissatisfied with the fact that only a limited circle of people will have access to it. As the lawyer told Interfax, at the beginning of the trial the accused will evidently call for making the proceedings more open, particularly for increasing the number of journalists and public representatives attending the trial.

Gorbachev Testimony Requested

OW1204175993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev has been officially informed that he has been summoned to the Russian Supreme Court to testify as a witness during the trial of the coup leaders. The trial is to commence on April, 14 in Moscow. However on April, 10 Gorbachev left for the U.S. and Japan. According to the Representative of the Military Board of the court the former president had promised to turn up as soon as he is needed.

This is not the Constitutional Court and the procedure of the witness' arrival to trial has been worked out in every detail, stressed the Representative of the Board. And the law suggests several ways to enforce it on witness, including bringing him by force.

Aleksandr Rutskoy and Ruslan Khasbulatov are also expected to be called to testify at the first stage of the hearings. The Board finds calling the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, to witness in court, currently unnecessary.

Referendum Issues

Further on Local Soviets' Conference on Referendum

Khasbulatov Addresses Conference

LD1004183693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1315 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Speech by Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to a conference of people's deputies of local soviets in Moscow on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] The foundation of modern democracy is constituted, first and foremost, by representative state bodies, through which the people execute directly their political power. This is what the representative character of these power bodies consists of. A really representative power is only just being shaped, in the form of the soviets, though it may sound like a paradox. Today, the soviets are not only not enjoying their full power—which has become common place—but they do not even have all of the traditional functions that municipal bodies and communes in democratic countries—or in the countries that we are used to calling democratic—have been fulfilling for hundreds of years.

Therefore, the main aspect of our development in the last two years—although we have not perhaps always stated this out loud—has consisted of carrying out just this municipalization of the soviets and enabling them to really implement the power of the people. It is from this point of view that we have been regarding this conference, which, as I have already mentioned, was being prepared for a long time and not just to fit a particular moment. It seems to me that we shall be able to talk our problems over thoroughly, to compare notes, and to draw conclusions.

Of course, reality affects the course of our meeting. Apprehension and alarm are the feelings that are predominant in the public consciousness today. Events of the last few months—which reached their climax at the Seventh, Eighth and, finally, the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies—indicate that society has so far failed to find a way out of the critical situation. Under these conditions, the main task—and the Ninth Congress has largely fulfilled it—is to prevent developments from becoming unconstitutional. However, the congress did not succeed in removing this threat altogether. This is understandable, because the profound reasons for the crisis in our society lie in the state of the economy, the results of the socioeconomic policy being implemented, and the catastrophic drop in confidence in all the institutions of state authority.

The Sixth Congress of People's Deputies last April stressed that a change of direction in socioeconomic policy was needed. Instead of this, we unfortunately encountered from the outset an ignoring of the decisions of that congress. In the subsequent period, we encountered an open course aimed at dissolving the legislative and representative bodies of authority, attempts to establish control over the power of the courts and the procuracy, and harsh press censorship.

Recently, we had dealings with a preprogrammed scenario, the final act of which would have meant entry into a new totalitarian system and the complete abandonment of the democratic advances of the 80's and 90's. An historical analogy comes to mind. The failure of the economic policy of Stalin's regime caused by the abandonment of the New Economic Policy gave rise to mass dissatisfaction among the people. In response, the political regime abandoned the good shoots of democracy that had begun to ripen under the conditions of the New Economic Policy and openly went over to a policy of repression. Such is the socioeconomic situation now. Such is the socioeconomic policy at present.

At the next, tenth congress, there will evidently have to be a detailed discussion of the problems relating to the progress of economic transformations. As you know, we have set the date in June and, of course, these events could take place without conflict, without attempts by some people to intimidate others and to disperse them, and without any of those cunning tricks and so on. We intend to stick firmly to early June regarding the tenth congress.

The period of work of the new government—you certainly know this yourselves—is obviously not enough to expect serious changes for the better in the area of social and economic results. At the same time, three months in our compressed time is quite a sufficient period in which to understand whether the lessons of the failure of the initial stage of the reforms have been taken into account and whether any changes and turning points have been outlined in the economic transformations envisaged by the decisions of the Seventh, as well as the Eighth, Congress of People's Deputies. A positive reply to these questions can hardly be given today.

The first results of the new government's work are rather negative. Hardly any special evidence is needed here because it is so obvious. The economy is being dragged more and more into a destructive phase of its development. The people's living standard is falling. You know this much better than we do. It is more and more difficult for directors of enterprises to keep production under control and to provide wages for workers and their families and kindergartens and nurseries for their children.

Honest entrepreneurs are confused and shocked by the actions of a collective Rasputin. Workers in the area of science, culture, education, and public health are in despair. The Supreme Soviet tries to alleviate the position of the people. Wages, pensions, allowances, and grants are increased every three months. Destructive processes in industry, which threaten to develop into chaos, are being blockaded, more or less.

An analysis of a real state of affairs in the economy demonstrates that the crevice that the country entered at the beginning of 1992 is deepening. The crisis has affected the whole social and economic organism. The total fall in industrial production in 1991, 1992, and at the beginning of 1993, amounted to about 40 percent. In other words, it exceeded, as a whole, the recession of 1941, the first year of the war.

Devastating blows are still being dealt to all areas of human life. You know that the people's food situation has sharply deteriorated. It is still deteriorating. The death rate of the population has exceeded the birth rate. The principles that form the basis for the people to live together are collapsing. Morals are declining. A word of honor is losing value, as is honor itself. All this can now be bought and sold. It is simply a matter of price.

Having lost these moral supports, a major part of the population finds itself stepping onto the slope of degradation and disagreement. Most people are disillusioned. Their faith in reformers is lost. Crime has violently hit our society, and it is being fought in a very slack manner indeed. The growing suicide rate is alarming. Many people now see their lives as a failure. The mortality rate among teenagers is increasing particularly fast, which is directly connected with the increase in alcoholism and drug addiction, the feeling of despair and hopelessness. If the death rate remains at today's high level in the near future, one-third of young people who are now 16-years-old will not live to be 60.

Against the background of this mass impoverishment and degradation, a few newly created bigwigs are making themselves rich in terrifying, barbaric forms. They are closely connected with the present political regime and are its social mainstay—which, of course, is very far removed from acting in the interest of an economic, political, social, and moral revival of Russia.

The conclusion is clear. The methods and means chosen to introduce economic changes—and especially the monetarist machinery of implementing them—are, on the whole, orientated toward the same paradigm that still hampers the minds of the newly formed government and its ideological leaders.

Regrettably, our lessons have not taught us anything. The government has not really been reformed. Legitimization measures have not been implemented. The course of reforms has not been adjusted or even worked out. To speak in these conditions about the congress and the Supreme Soviet having full power is ludicrous, absurd, and entirely wrong. Rather, this demonstrates the weakness of the aforementioned power bodies and their inability to make the executive power fulfill lawful demands. An obvious lack of balance of powers can be observed here.

If one of them must be strengthened, then it is the supreme legislative and representative power as a whole that needs strengthening, as well as its ability to insist on the implementation of decisions adopted. At the same time, it is clear that, at the present stage, a system based on a strong federal government should be created, which would really be capable of improving the state of the economy and really be responsible for the state of matters in the country.

Nothing will change in the country if we fail to change the situation and let the executive power remain loose and only responsible to the parliament to a small degree. The situation will continue to get worse. The government must be responsible solely to the parliament. A collective Rasputin will lead Russia to collapse, disintegration, and to the ruin of our motherland. Can it be that our fellow countrymen cannot see this today?

We are pinning certain hopes on the roundtable continuing its work, which was set up by a joint decision of the Supreme Soviet and the government at the instruction of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. The first roundtable sessions have shown that its participants are willing to search for ways toward understanding. At the moment, a sort of economic accord pact is being prepared, which is a kind of a framework agreement between the main social forces on the mechanism for implementing the economic reform. This idea was included specifically in the decisions of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies.

There is a need for a responsible government of people's trust and national accord. Such a government, in contrast to a collective Rasputin, should not try to divide us—Russia's nationals—into white, red, black, or yellow people, and so on. All our people want to live in peace and harmony, so do not stir them up against one another.

If this document receives the approval of the Supreme Soviet, the government, and our society, it will open the way to the formation of a government on the basis of national accord. This, in its turn, will be an important precondition for effective economic transformations in the country. This was under discussion at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies.

Judging by the first reaction, it did not find a response on the part of the executive power, although the president himself reaffirmed this very idea in his speech at the congress. I have no doubt that life will make one realize the necessity of its practical implementation if, of course, we want accord and not a deepening of confrontation. However, this is exactly the point—that many influential forces want this conflict. They provoke this conflict. That is why I appeal to you, our fellow countrymen. People! Be cautious and vigilant! Do not allow yourselves to be intimidated and deceived! There are too many lies in our society at present. There have never been so many lies as at present.

Certainly, the formation of a coalition government—a government of national accord—before the multiparty elections is not a simple task. Turning down this idea in principle, however—those who are rejecting this idea are deliberately blockading achievement of accord. It seems as if some leaders do not understand Russia; therefore, they are constantly looking far beyond its borders.

I would like to say a few words about the interrelation between the Constitution and democracy. As you know, the Constitution is the legislative core that dictates to all citizens—with no exception practically in any country—to submit one's behavior to the main law. This is a self-evident truth. Will criminals not find excuses for themselves when top officials openly laugh at the main law? Therefore, the idea of the Constitution has been triumphant for centuries. Essentially, it was only rejected during communist rule.

This is interesting. A thought comes to mind about a genetic relationship between our top political regime and the forces that rejected the Constitution as the main law. You know that it was the problems of observing the Constitution of the Russian Federation that proved to be at the center of political life at the beginning of this year.

In March, two Congresses of People's Deputies—first the Eighth and then the Extraordinary Ninth—especially examined and adopted decisions on urgent measures to preserve the constitutional order. What were the reasons for addressing the issue of observance of the Constitution? You know that the Supreme Soviet and then the Congress of People's Deputies were forced to deal with issues of observance of the Constitution because of the increasingly frequent violations of it, by bodies of power at every level and by high- ranking officials. It was also because of a full-frontal offensive against the present Constitution by radical party leaders who call themselves democrats but who, in fact, were literally pursuing Bolshevik tactics with their unbridled attempts to trample down, crush, and destroy all those who doubt and hesitate, not to mention their rivals. This onrush carried with it the supreme official of the state.

It was no longer a question of this or that imperfection of the Constitution being at disparity with the realities of our transitional period and with the requirements of the reforms. It was a question of rejecting the Constitution as a whole, almost as if it were the main obstacle on the road of Russia's renewal. In essence, an objective had been set to discredit completely the existing Constitution and the Constitutional Court—for all intents and purposes, to abolish the Constitution and introduce a regime of presidential rule in the country. This is yet another one of Gorbachev's unfulfilled ideas.

Behind this, of course, lay the objectives of—first and foremost—distracting the people's attention from the failures of economic policy, blaming these on the soviets, trying to monopolize power in order to continue the violent experiment on the country, and shutting up the press and all malcontents.

The existing Constitution was criticized moderately, more or less, before the beginning of 1993, with the understanding that: time was needed to bring it fully in line with new tendencies of development; a new draft constitution ought to be thoroughly prepared; that it should not be adopted hastily, but calmly and considerately; and that the existing Constitution ought to be renewed at the same time. That was exactly what we were doing. Also, all of us are far from idealizing our Constitution.

However, an announcement suddenly came in January saying that the existing Constitution was useless, that the president did not swear to this Constitution, and that it had become totally different as a result of numerous additions and amendments. Moreover, direct violations of the Constitution, the constitutional law, have become more frequent. Unfortunately, to be honest, we—the leadership of the Supreme Soviet and its chairman, in particular—made a gross mistake at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. We thought that the decision on stabilizing the situation in the country that was adopted at that time was a manifestation of good will, a political compromise that would alleviate the conflict. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Moreover, by making this decision, we seriously deviated from the Constitution.

The decision contained clauses that seriously limited the rights of the Supreme Soviet and the government to the advantage of the president strengthening his personal power. For instance, the government was deprived of the right to have its legislative initiative because the president saw a possibility that the government would no longer be subordinate to him personally.

For its part, the Supreme Soviet's right to form the government, execute control over the executive power, and the possibility to call the president to account for anti-constitutional actions were restricted. Naturally, all this violated the principle of a sensible division of powers—their normal interaction—and caused the strengthening of integral and unified power.

I would like to repeat that we regarded these actions as a temporary thing and as a sign of good will and accord. However, these deviations from the Constitution were perceived as a sign of the legislature's weakness. Attacks on the Supreme Soviet have intensified. Constant violations of the Constitution by government officials and the president's administration have become a normal feature. Actions spoken of in the 20 March appeal to the people presented the most dangerous device for undermining the Constitution. According to the findings of the Constitutional Court, it contained approximately a dozen gross violations of the Constitution, which, in essence, represented a change of the political and state systems, a departure from democracy to crude autocracy, and the imposition in the country of the worst type of command-based rule by administrative system.

As for the announcement that the president released himself from his oath of allegiance to the Constitution because it had undergone serious changes, it was simply absurd. Does anyone really share this idea that the conducting of reforms and the construction of a legal-based society would have been facilitated better by the Constitution the way it was in spring of 1990 and 1991?

Incidentally, at that point, the right for private ownership was not enshrined in it. It did not contain the principles of federalism and clauses expanding the independence of local administration bodies. Human rights were not enshrined in it, and so on and so forth.

Again, take even the period of the Constitution, when we were all elected as people's deputies of the Russian Federation—when there was no mention in it at all of the president or of the Constitutional Court. So, as you see, if we get down to brass tacks, really, as they say, it is only a step from the sublime to the ridiculous, if all this were not so tragic. To discuss all the amendments and changes, without exception, that were introduced in 1990 and 1991 is simply not a serious possibility. If we are to criticize, we must analyze what was introduced that was useful, and what was unnecessary—or harmful, perhaps.

For example, should we parliamentarians have (?created) an uncontrolled president who was capable of even disregarding the basic law? Yet changes have been made to the Constitution since the First Congress of People's Deputies. All of them, without exception, were made by the congresses, including when the present president was the chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

Incidentally, among the 330 of them, more than 200 are associated with the president. More than 70 percent of all the substantial amendments were introduced by the presidential side. If that is true—and it is—then what is the point of the hand-wringing and hysteria over the fact that the Constitution has changed?

After all, if it had not been changed, many of the reforms would simply not have been possible, especially with regard to the alteration of forms of ownership and the positive processes in society. Of course, this does not mean that we should not improve the machinery for amending the Constitution. Again, however, this must not hold up this most legislatively creative constitutional process, because it creates favorable prerequisites for drawing up and adopting a new constitution.

Whatever hopes may be pinned to the new constitution, however, you cannot build a democratic society while disregarding the existing Constitution. Sooner or later, society had to understand that. The harsh reality of the Eighth, and then especially the Ninth, Congress of People's Deputies was the violation of the Constitution. The harsh reaction to this Constitution was, in fact, a reflection of the public's recognition of this truth. In addition, these congresses did not simply duplicate one another. Let me make a few points about that.

First, the Eighth Congress of Peoples Deputies was a sort of watershed between the time when there was a clear tendency to disregard the Constitution and laws—including on the part of the legislators themselves, incidentally—and the conscious need for all officials, institutions of authority, and all citizens, to strictly observe the Constitution's requirements. The road to this constitutional process was opened—which, let us hope, will be the normal process in future. It is already open. People, including legislators and all levels of the legislature, began to realize more clearly how important the decisions are that are made by the representative authorities from the lowest level up to the congress and the Supreme Soviet.

It was precisely this awareness of the need to follow the principles of constitutionalism and the principles of constitutional law that so scared those who would like to continue destroying the foundations of the constitutional system—and especially to undermine the soviets as the bodies of popular power—that they took what were, in fact, extreme anticonstitutional steps. As you know, it was this that required the convening of the extraordinary Ninth Congress of People's Deputies.

Second, what are we really talking about if one says that the functions of being a sort of savior of the fatherland passed to this Congress—if one can say this about the Congress. This Congress is now being cursed, even by the deputies themselves. Even if it was a very bad Congress, if there had not been this bad Congress, I am not sure we would still have had a united Russian homeland. The merit of this Congress was that it did not just defend the Constitution, but for the first time in Russia's history, it staved off the unconstitutional actions of executive authority that were going on in practice and that, incidentally, have not yet been finally halted.

The supreme body of power subjected the anticonstitutional actions to serious criticism, gave a political appraisal of these dangerous steps, and introduced on the agenda the issue of dismissing the president for breaching the Constitution, on the basis of the Constitutional Court's ruling, displaying its great courage and adherence to principle. Of course, a whole series of decisions was also adopted, including decisions connected with holding the referendum on 25 April throughout Russia, on four questions with which readers and those attending the conference with us here are already familiar.

This particular issue is a pretty complex one. Central Electoral Commission Chairman Vasiliy Ivanovich Kazakov, I think, will answer many questions today, and we shall have to consult on how we should organize and carry out the referendum so that every citizen really is given real scope and a real opportunity to make his own opinion known.

I would like to say that the political situation in the country has deteriorated considerably since the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies and since the decision on the referendum. I have had occasion to speak about this repeatedly. It was, in fact, only to be expected that a heightening of tension would be the first result of such a decision. Now, as we see, the political fighting has flared up with fresh force and is now being intensively transferred to the regions, to the grassroots. It is already evident, however, that people have started to get a better understanding of the essence of the conflict. Not by chance are committees in defense of the Constitution and democracy being formed all over the place.

Another important aspect—one I have also had occasion to speak of before—was the expectation, the wholly objective expectation, that following the last congresses and the conflicts imposed upon them, all powers have been seriously weakened. State power, even though it is built on the principle of division of power, is uniform. One can have power or an absence of power; there is objective power or ineffective, weak power. We have had opportunities to say in conversations, equally with the president, the government, and influential people in the administration, that attempts to fight the Supreme Soviet, the congress, to the death will weaken the influence of the president himself, and of the executive authority itself. Regretfully, all this turned out to be cries in the wilderness.

The conclusion suggests itself. Whatever the outcome of the referendum, we have to work out a mechanism of national accord, public reconciliation, and consensus, because rejecting accord means rejecting Russia's rebirth and extending the crisis—with rather fairly predictable consequences. I can reassure you that the parliament has always been in favor of accord, in favor of reform, and in favor of honest fulfillment of obligations that proceed from the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation. This, regretfully, cannot be said about the other side.

The most likely outcome of the referendum will probably be the need to hold early elections, both of the president and the people's deputies. As you know, I have been in favor, at least for the last six months, of a simultaneous and honest reelection of both institutions. By now, I think everyone understands that early elections will also mean the need to pursue a new policy. This feature has to be stipulated.

Let us hope that the ideology and policy of the leader's cult—and its indissolubly linked authoritarianism—have been left in the past. The latest events have convincingly demonstrated their unacceptability for the country.

We are entering a new period, when conditions are being created for developing the political process entirely within a constitutional, democratic framework. We increasingly clearly understand that democracy presupposes the close linking of cooperation, mutual control of the authorities, and various political, social, and professional forces.

Whatever we say or whatever we try to do, today we cannot do it without adjusting the reforms—especially with respect to the strong social content of economic transformations—without a significant revision of the personnel of the higher echelons of power, the support of real public centers, and without attracting regional interests. Politically moderate forces can become a real third force at a new stage of political development—centrists, if you like. The political process has reached a stage when the limitations and the exhaustion of human resources—counting, first and foremost, on demolishing old values—have become very clear-cut. To a large extent, they have displayed their incapability for creative work. This is precisely why radicals, who are running the country, are doomed.

Generally speaking, there is nothing unusual here. We have here the natural historic logic of a revolutionary process. Those forces did what they could. They brought destruction. The time for creators has now come. Incidentally, the Lithuanian example provides eloquent proof of that. The well-tried institute of free elections serves as this kind of a substitute in a democratic society.

Our course for elections might facilitate the transformation of the present acute political confrontation to a peaceful preelection campaign. To all appearances, early and simultaneous elections of this or that branch of authority are becoming inevitable. It might be that the elections could become a powerful stimulus for the general development of the democratic process within the framework of the law; for the strengthening of the parties and public movements that have already emerged; for finding a real social influence, and not a sham one—which is happening now, as you know; and for revealing the electorate's true will. On this basis, we will be able to reach social consensus and form a new government, enjoying the true support of the people.

In making a forecast of the most probable option for the development of the political process, one can assume that, after the referendum and on the basis of its results, it will be quite possible to convene a Congress of People's Deputies again, at which the issue of possible early elections will be determined. Of course, in this context, we all have to make preparations for convening this congress, if it is necessary.

Here I would like to say right away that it should not be interpreted as a congress where people get together for this or that, to turn something down, or to dismiss someone. The fact is that the Supreme Soviet itself is formed out of the congress. It is not a full legislative body, and it can operate as an effective legislative control body only in conjunction with the congress, insofar as the basic articles of the Constitution and the new laws that we pass need to be carried through the congress.

It is, therefore, no accident that the congress was chosen as a target, because if you destroy and disperse the congress, the Supreme Soviet is left, de facto, without rights. That is what it is all about. That is obviously why the most touching scenes from the work of congress are served up especially for our fellow citizens—to put it mildly; they are especially to turn society against the congress and give rise to anti-congress attitudes. Let democracy be of the kind that can see, however. It is probably much worse for the population when decisions are made in secret, and no one knows what they are. At night, however, a family will get a heavy knock at the door.

Such decisions probably suit our population far less than loud, noisy, even scandalous congresses, which take place in front of the whole world and whose decisions are subject to resolute and critical analysis by the whole world. Then one can also see positive aspects to this. It is just this kind of noisy congress that instills a certain amount of fear in those forces who want to establish an autocratic regime. This also has to be realized.

On the subject of several opinions passed on the activity of the soviets, the representative bodies of authority: Of course, now that the preparations for the referendum—that very important political event—are fully under way, you can see for yourselves that all the political forces who had a condescending attitude toward the representative bodies of authority now see that it is precisely the representative body that is the main guarantor for preserving the democratic nature of the transformations being carried out in the country.

Representative bodies of power are the ones to control the carrying out of this major political event—the referendum. It is a constitutional duty of the representative bodies of power, and you must carry out this constitutional duty. Second, soviets are presently playing an increasing role in strengthening and developing federative trends, in fighting off any manifestations of separatism and nationalism and attempts to regionalize Russia and dismember it into numerous princely fiefdoms—attempts which are encouraged from outside.

Let us be frank. Given all the noisy display of reverence for market reforms, the executive power—both in the center and in the localities—sometimes finds itself incapable of implementing them effectively. The poor professionalism of radical reformers, their remoteness from the real state of things, the corruption of the state apparatus at all levels, which is growing like a tumor—especially here in the center—have their effect on the reforms. Under these conditions, the deputies of local soviets simply must provide necessary assistance to executive structures and practical assistance in resolving practical problems. It has been proven by life itself that no contradictions are found in places where general problems are being tackled and where the deputies of local soviets are sincerely interested in resolving these problems together with the administration.

All in all, you and I have a lot of problems. So, to sum up my conclusions as I draw this somewhat extended speech to a close, I would like to say that the development of the democratic process in the Russian Federation, a process that is founded on the Constitution, has reached a stage where the people themselves must openly say whether they want to continue being experimented on in these particular forms and to continue listening to endless empty promises. The Russian people are, of course, quite mature enough to make the right choice.

Thank you.

Reforms Against Russians' Interests

LD1204192393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1847 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—"Russian people's deputies perceived the attempt to establish an unconstitutional regime of personal rule by abolishing the soviets of people's deputies with great concern," says an appeal by the All-Russian Conference of People's Deputies of local governing councils to the Russian peoples released today.

The present representative government bodies became an impediment to those who got down to satisfying their selfish interests under the slogans of democracy and reforms, the appeal says. Attempts to dissolve the councils pose a threat to fledgling Russian democracy and constitute an encroachment on the Russian citizen's freedoms, rights and security.

People's deputies are concerned that the reform does not reach its goals, the methods of enacting it proved to be erroneous and generated the economic and spiritual impoverishment of the people.

Participants in the conference believe that there is no alternative to joint and coordinated work. The forum calls on all people's deputies, local representative and executive government bodies, political parties and other public organisations to show prudence and restraint and not to allow extremist forces of any hues to drag themselves in a destructive power struggle.

The appeal calls on all citizens of the multi-ethnic Russia to express clearly their attitude to the present socio-economic policy at the forthcoming referendum and demand that it be adjusted and drastically renewed.

The referendum will be over but Russia will remain, the appeal says. It is important to take a courageous step and free it of the reform policy that is at odds with the interests of the majority of Russians.

Military Votes in Referendum 'Should Not Be Announced'

OW1204194093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1859 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament's Committee for Defense and Security believes that the votes of servicemen should be included in the final roll of votes, but should not be announced in military units, the committee's chairman Sergey Stepashin told Interfax on Monday [12 April].

Stepashin said this was due to the dubious situation "whereby servicemen are asked to state whether or not they trust the president who is the Russian Armed Forces' supreme commander."

Stepashin noted that the procedure proposed by his committee for counting servicemen's votes be approved by the Defense Ministry and the General Staff.

He also announced that the idea of allowing servicemen to vote in open polling stations had been rejected because many of the garrisons were located far from populated areas. In view of this, on Monday the parliament's presidium should discuss the expediency of accepting the other proposal which will help "drown the servicemen's votes in the general results of the referendum".

Stepashin said that the chairmen of the electoral commission must not announce the results of servicemen's vote.

Party Believes Referendum Will Divide Society

LD1204203593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2008 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The leadership of the Social-Democratic Party of Russia believes that the "forthcoming referendum is a sufficiently risky venture which is not quite honest from a political viewpoint," Igor Averkiyev, leader of the Social-Democratic Party of Russia told a news conference on Monday [12 April].

"As a result of the referendum, not only power but the whole people may be divided into two irreconcilable sides which undoubtedly will lead to an escalation of the conflict in the country," Igor Averkiyev said.

At a meeting with journalists, representatives of the party said that the Social-Democratic Party of Russia announces "legalizing of its actual withdrawal from the Democratic Russia Movement at a federal level and canceling powers of its representatives in the corresponding bodies of the Democratic Russia." The leader of the party noted that the Social-Democratic Party of Russia is represented in the Russian Parliament by two deputies while "in the territorial organisations the party is represented much better."

Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Against Referendum

LD1204175693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The April 25 referendum "will not bring any positive results", according to Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, who spoke on Monday [12 April] at a meeting with representatives of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia and other trade union associations, non-members of the federation.

The first two questions for the referendum concerning confidence in the president and the country's socio-economic policy "do not have any legal basis" and are of "purely political nature", and the answers to them "may only serve food for thought for political groups", the deputy parliamentary speaker noted. As far as the third and the fourth questions are concerned, they are "quite constitutional". However the answer "yes" to the question about early election of president and the deputy corps "will bring about many difficulties," Nikolay Ryabov pointed out.

Igor Klochkov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, said that the federation stands for the simultaneous election of president and people's deputies which must be held as soon as possible.

Presidential Council Member on Forthcoming Referendum

LD1204161693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—"President Yeltsin's victory in the forthcoming referendum of April 25 would give a great impetus to strengthening of power, would prevent the 'centrifugal' tendencies in Russia, make it possible to resolve the antagonism between the executive and legislative branches and proceed with real economic reforms," Alla Yaroshinskaya, member of the Presidential Council, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

She regrets that the referendum will not raise the problem on a new constitution of the Russian Federation. According to Yaroshinskaya, it is one of the most important issues, because the present constitution with hundreds of amendments is controversial and paradoxical at times.

Although she supports free expression of the will of the people, she is not, on the other hand, sure whether the referendum will yield practicable results.

Yaroshinskaya believes that the recent Ninth Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies has made its task unattainable. The president will have to poll at least 51 per cent of the votes of those on the voters lists, whereas she expects the turnout of voters to be only 60 to 80 per cent.

Therefore, even if Yeltsin gives the majority of votes, his opponents will assess it as his defeat. "In this case, unfortunately, the referendum may be useless, and the antagonism between the branches of power may worsen," Yaroshinskaya said.

The best way out of the present crisis would be to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously, so that to eliminate any period of powerlessness.

As a journalist, she was indignant at the frenzied anti-presidential campaign unleashed by the opposition newspapers. They are implanting a new "image of an enemy", alleging that President Yeltsin alone is responsible for the current situation in Russia. "They are playing into the hands of those, who would like to turn things back and act on the principle 'the worse, the better'", she said.

Economic Freedom Party's Referendum Stance Reported

MK1304090693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Apr 93 p 9

[Mariya Zasurskaya report: "Konstantin Borovoy Has Allocated 1 Million Rubles for Referendum"]

[Text] A decision was adopted at a 12 April session of the Economic Freedom Party's Political Council to mount active agitation work in connection with the upcoming referendum: to set up a staff to prepare for the referendum and to allocate 1 million rubles [R] for this kind of work in Moscow.

It was pointed out in speeches in the Political Council that in connection with the upcoming referendum the Economic Freedom Party has prepared and circulated to regional branches a package of documents for the purpose of helping in propaganda work locally, and youth groups have also been formed to participate in an agitation campaign by distributing the party's leaflets. The Political Council decided to allocate approximately R1 million to prepare for the referendum in Moscow, while the party's branches locally will decide this question independently. The party's leaders intend to undertake a number of tours of the regions. General Secretary Irina Khakamada recently returned from Tambov, where she met with the leaders of the Economic Freedom Party's Tambov section and with local entrepreneurs. In her opinion, "the Congress struck another blow against political stability and civil accord in society."

Irina Khakamada defines the party's position as follows: "Three 'yeses' against one 'no.'" It is proposed to come out for confidence in the Russian president, for support for the policy of reforms, against an early presidential election, and for early elections of deputies. She believes that "in casting our vote for the president, we will be voting not for his personal power but for the idea of a presidency, for the commencement of structural reforms in the economy, for the introduction of the institution of private land ownership, and for the complete demonopolization of the economy and the privatization of the state sector." The party's leaders have requested a meeting with Boris Yeltsin. In Mr. Borovoy's opinion, the reply will be positive.

Private Farmers Organizing To Support Yeltsin

PM1304093193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 93 First Edition p 4

[Valeriy Konovalov report: "Farmers Back President and Will Have Their Say During Referendum"]

[Text] An enlarged session of the Association of Russian Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives [AKKOR] Presidium has determined the position espoused by Russian private farmers on the coming referendum.

Representatives of local private farm organizations announced that private peasants and their associations virtually everywhere back the Russian President and the reform course. Vigorous work has already been mounted in the regions to prepare for the referendum. In Kursk, for instance, private farmers have organized a presidential support fund and set up a special staff for this purpose. Support groups are already in operation within the Smolensk regional association and in a number of other regions. Private farmers are also prepared to provide material backing for the campaign. Thus, Sakhalin private farmer Ivan Shumekin said that he intends to earmark 100,000 rubles from his modest budget for actions to support the president. Private farmers have offered to assign canvassers and transport to carry the ballot boxes and to organize trade in farm produce on the referendum day.

The adopted decree says that "positive answers to the questions on the ballot will help overcome the constitutional crisis, strengthen constitutional order, and further deepen the course of economic reforms being carried out by the president and the government." The AKKOR along with regional and local associations will take part in setting up a referendum support fund, and it urged all private farmers to contribute as much as they can to the fund.

The AKKOR sent a letter to the president and government in which it not only set out private farmers' position on referendum questions, but also stated the need to take urgent steps to develop land reform and back the private farming movement.

Military & Space Issues

General Dismisses Rumors of Unrest in Western Troops

LD1204130593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1133 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—Claims by the Berlin newspaper "BERLINER KURIER AM SONNTAG" that the staff of the Western Group of Forces is preparing for a putsch in Moscow do not correspond to the true situation. "This is a lie, it is disinformation," Colonel-General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

In his words, "it is in someone's interests to inflame the situation regarding Russian troops in Germany on the eve of the referendum. We are trying to remain outside politics," he said.

General Burlakov listed the main tasks of his troops as being military study and the withdrawal of troops back to Russian territory. In his view, the tasks are being tackled successfully. The troops have completed firing practice at the company level and the men are preparing for the latest round of final testing. At the present time, 120,000 pieces of equipment and weapons have already been taken back to Russian territory ahead of schedule, along with 2.5 million tonnes of material stores, General Burlakov noted. One ferry carrying 100 carriages loaded with equipment is leaving Germany for Russia every day. The troops are doing everything within their power to see that their withdrawal is completed four months ahead of schedule. "We have no time to be involved in plots," the commander in chief emphasized, "and there is no one to be involved." In his words, the numbers on personnel in the forces have not been made up by those on active service. "Not a single conscript from Russia has come to join us this year," said General Burlakov. "We appealed for assistance to Uzbekistan, which sent 4,000 soldiers to the Western Group of Forces." It is his estimate that about 30 percent of the servicemen are Russians on active service and that about 70 percent of officers are Russians.

Replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent about the internal climate in military collectives at the places where soldiers are being relocated, General Burlakov noted that the servicemen are ready for difficulties. The situation with accommodation is improving now, although this is happening slowly. General Burlakov said that the prospects for accommodating troops this year were hopeful. According to his information, about 19,500 apartments for servicemen should be built on Russian territory, which will remove the tension surrounding social and living conditions for their families.

TV Reports on Impracticality of 'Plasma Weapon'

LD1204225993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2002 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Video report by correspondent Mikhail Zotov—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Zotov] Recently there were brief reports in the press, the essence of which was that Russia has almost created its own unique system of anti-missile defense which was referred to as a plasma weapon. It was mentioned that the energy being directed by the ground-based components of that anti-missile system is concentrated not on the target itself, that is, not on the missile with nuclear warheads, but on the part of the atmosphere directly ahead of the missile on its flight path. Thus, an electronic stand is placed under the missile, a plasmoid created by surface microwave ultra high-frequency particles or by optical generators.

However, as became clear at the Vimpel scientific production association today which does, as a matter of fact, develop such systems, much of what was stated in the newspaper articles is not in line with truth. In principle a plasma system of anti-missile defense like this can be created. However, the expenditure required is so great that not a single superpower in the world is capable of doing it. Moreover, in order to create a plasmoid and retain it on the missile flight path requires enormous sources of energy. It is precisely for this reason that it is simply impossible to deploy an apparatus like this on ships, as presented in the diagrams. Both Russian and American experts know this.

Moreover, in the opinion of experts, this does not mean that work connected with a plasma weapon is not being conducted. However, it will be a very, very long time before a system that actually operates is created.

Ground Forces Commander Interviewed on Army, Politics

LD1104020893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Report by Mikhail Ponomarev on interview with Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Ground Forces of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, by unknown correspondent; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Ponomarev] Army and the referendum, army and politics—this is the subject of the our correspondent's conversation with one of the commanders of Russia's Armed Forces.

[Begin Semenov recording] Because they enjoy full rights as Russia's citizens, servicemen have a right to take part in this important political event on a voluntary basis. Therefore each serviceman will determine his own attitude to the referendum by way of voting.

Unfortunately, there are some among our officers who try their hardest to somehow influence the servicemen.

There have been incidents of servicemen taking part in political meetings and gatherings. We are also witnessing attempts from the part of certain servicemen to participate in the political struggle. You know about the events in our Transcaucasian region, or rather in the North Caucasus, where there are already several presidents from among the military. Attempts are being made to put forward nominations in other regions. We know of one such attempt in Kalmykia; this, incidentally, is our fellow-serviceman, from our staff [reference to General Vladimir Ochirov, one of the presidential candidates in Kalmykia]. Well, naturally, no one can deny people this right, but I think that at present we as professionals have things with which to occupy ourselves. [end recording]

Fall Recruitment To Supply 27 Percent of Soldiers

LD0904161993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1547 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—The Armed Forces do not face a task of de-ideologization, Deputy Russian Defence Minister Colonel-General Valeriy Mironov told a briefing on new approaches to work with personnel here today.

He said the Armed Forces are not involved in politics, but commanders and their assistants for work with personnel do their best to educate soldiers on the basis of universal values and Army Traditions.

The most difficult problem is recruitment, as the fall drafting campaign will bring only 27 per cent of the necessary personnel number. However, in hotbeds military units are 100 per cent staffed at the expense of contract service.

Sailors Discuss Pacific Fleet's Difficulties

OW1304010693 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 10 Apr 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Let us turn to problems of the military. Big brass have not been passing over the Far East during their recent visits. Here is some more information on another possible military guest: Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev will probably visit the Pacific Fleet in mid-April. The military has its own numerous problems, and one of the most significant ones is the shift to contract service in the Russian Army and Navy. A special public opinion poll conducted in one of units of the Northeast border district revealed that 81 percent of those polled are skeptical about this form of service because of the lack of economic and social conditions. This problem is touched upon by Yevgeniy Chuiy, our Sovetskaya Gavan reporter.

[Begin recording] [Chuiy] A battleship—let us call it "Steregushchiy" [Vigilant] has just docked at a wharf in a naval base port. It returned from a cruise that is distant and rare nowadays, which no doubt stirred the envy of fellows in naval uniforms who live and serve on ships, but who have actually never seen the ocean. There are quite a few immobile ships today. After attending the solemn salutation of the Steregushchiy, I had a look at one of those immobile ships, visited the sailors' quarters, and talked to the sailors about the most burning issues.

[First unidentified sailor] It was much better when the ship was alive.

[Chuiy] A year ago, you were still in the Maritime Kray. Is it sad to serve when the ship is dead, as you call it?

[First sailor] Very, very sad. The ship suffers, and so does the crew.

[Chuiy] Neither the ship nor you works.

[First sailor] Yes. It is just like standing over a dead body.

[Chuiy] Indeed. If a youth finds himself in the fleet, he expects something unusual from it: military romance, poetic experiences, fighting the elements. Instead, all he gets is gray routine surrounded by rusty metal. What is more, daily drudgery takes its toll.

How much do you earn?

[Second sailor] I get [word indistinct] rubles, and the petty officer gets 500 rubles.

[Chuiy] I also asked how the men felt about contract service. They said it was a dubious issue and similar to what is happening in our country today.

[Second sailor] Naturally, we are worried. There is some kind of uncertainty. When I entered the service, I did not know it would be like this. [passage indistinct]

[Chuiy] Do you think that 5,000 or 4,000 is a lot or little for contract service?

[Second sailor] I really do not know.

[Third sailor] It is just fine for me.

[Chuiy] Yes, the grim drudgery managed to sneak in even to a place that seemed to be destined for nothing but poetry by God himself. Still, they expend the time and carry on guard duty even on ships put to eternal rest. [end recording]

Official Views Space Program Priorities

LD1204162493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1244 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Studio interview with Nikolay Apllonovich Anfimov, corresponding member of Russian Academy of Science and first deputy director of the Central Engineering

Research Institute, by Vladimir Bezyayev, on 12 April, Cosmonautics Day—recorded]

[Text] [Bezyayev] How will our space program develop, given the realities of our times?

[Anfimov] The program has already been decided. It will be financed. A space budget will be endorsed for Russia's federal space program. The priorities are as follows. First, the application of cosmonautics in the interests of the national economy, for the purposes of communications, navigation, meteorology and, of course, the scientific program. Another important area is, I think, international cooperation. We now live in a single international family of space powers. It is very important for our space research program to find correct ways and means of cooperating with the European space program, with the American program being implemented by NASA, and with other countries. In other words, we must find our own way forward.

[Bezyayev] You say—we must—as if things could carry on in the same old way. Some people say that we can do without credits. Give us our share of cash for launches, they are saying, and we will earn the money we need ourselves, but unfortunately we are not being given this share.

[Anfimov] No, but I do not think we can finance all our programs out of cash allocated for launches. Launches can only finance some of the enterprises which play a direct part in launches. A very wide variety of sectors need to be financed if our entire space program is to develop in a harmonious way. So, for this reason, there also has to be fairly substantial state support. Individual commercial launches carried out on behalf of European clients cannot, of course, finance the whole of our space program.

Together with the United States we are now thinking about Mars. Various proposals are being prepared in this country. Programs are functioning. Various types of spacecraft targeted, ultimately, at Mars are being designed. This program is now underway, both from the Russian side and from the U.S. side. Joint activities in near-earth orbit are also a priority. I would even put them in the forefront, since they affect our immediate future. As for the Moon and, perhaps, certain other exotic problems, I think their turn will come later.

[Bezyayev] It is being said that Freedom, the U.S. orbiting station, may not actually fly. That is the view among us legislators and budget controllers. What about our Mir-2?

[Anfimov] Well, let's take Freedom first. I believe there is a strong likelihood that it will not fly. If it does get off the ground, it will be in a truncated, scaled-down form. I believe that is the trend in the United States at the moment. On the other hand, I believe that Mir-2 has very good prospects because our country has achieved a huge lead in the sphere of lengthy space flight, in tackling the entire range of technical and medical problems involved in lengthy space flight. Therefore, the scientific and technical community throughout the world is interested in cooperating with our country in making lengthy flights. Countries in Europe and other countries are now showing immense interest in our Mir program, both the present Mir and Mir-2. For this reason I think that the Mir-2 program has support, irrespective of the fate of the U.S. Freedom project.

Director on Profitability

LD1004105993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1033 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Russia expects to earn a profit of about 200-250 billion roubles (1992 prices) through accomplishing its state space programmes, Yuriy Koptev, director general of the Russian Space Agency (RSA) told in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

The Russian cosmonautics has become an integral part of the nation's science and economy, Yuriy Koptev emphasised. Over the past four decades one of the largest space infrastructure in the world has been created in the country which provides competitive space services on the world market, he said.

The system of the creation of space means has helped solve a number of such top priority tasks as the first artificial satellite of earth, first manned space flight, exploration of the moon, Venus, Mars and Halley's Comet with the help of automatic space apparatuses and prolonged manned space expeditions on board space ships and stations, Yuriy Koptev said.

Manned space flights, the main path of the development of which was determined by Sergey Korolyov, occupy a special place in scientific and applied space research, Yuriy Koptev noted.

Our orbital stations are reliably functioning in the near earth space. All-round study of natural resources and cartography of earth, study of atmosphere, research of physical phenomena and processes in space, astronomical observations, working off of new on board systems and apparatuses, experiments and semi-industrial space technological works and study of materials are being carried out on board them.

At present cosmonauts Gennadiy Manakov and Aleksandr Poleschuk are working on board "Soyuz TM-16" space laboratory. The docking of their spaceship "Soyuz TM-16" with "Krystall" technoligical module was accomplished for the first time. New universal docking units of this module make it possible for them to accept heavy apparatuses, including "shuttle" type orbital spaceships. The cosmonauts are supposed to work with a mixed Russian-French space crew in July 1993.

The change in the social and political situation in the world, a drop in the level of armed confrontation and rising requirements of space activity production have put new tasks in front of the Russian cosmonautics. First of all this concerns broadening of the commercial use of space and an increase in the profitability of using space systems and its entry in the world market, Yuriy Koptev emphasised.

The Russian Space Agency, Russian Ministry of Defence jointly with the Russian Academy of Sciences, interested ministries and departments have worked out a draft state space research programme until the year 2000 and, as a stage for its accomplishment—a draft federal space research programme for the year 1993.

Our space research programme until the year 2000 has taken into consideration world tendencies in the development of cosmonautics, the economic situation in Russia and also commitments included in international treaties and agreements. Priority in the programme has been given to projects which are conducive to the development of cosmonautics and introduction of advanced technologies in different spheres of the economy.

Space Industry To Join Business

MK1304103693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Apr 93 p 2

[Mikhail Sergeyev report: "Space Industry Evolves Along Commercial Lines. Conference Sets Up Bank"]

[Excerpts] Cooperation between the entrepreneurial community and rocket-building and space sector firms could give a strong anti-depression boost to the Russian industry. The results of the scientific and practical conference entitled "Business People and Economic Assimilation of Outer Space," which has been held at the Russian Academy of Sciences to coincide with International Space Day and is scheduled to end today, give rise to the hope that money and space technologies will gradually begin to team up together. For purposes of backing commercial operations of the space industry, the conference decided to set up a commercial bank and a specialized consulting and investment firm. The move was organized by the Zemlyane [Earthmen] business cooperation association, the Russian Union of Private Owners, and the Moscow Union of Private Entrepreneurs.

It is common knowledge that the rocket-building and space industry is suffering from an acute shortage of money and production orders (budget appropriations for its civil projects in 1993 amount to 90 billion rubles, which is more than in 1992 after adjustment for inflation, but 10 times less than in the mid-eighties). Therefore, the decision to set up a commercial bank to finance projects of aerospace firms may be regarded as the conference's main result. Those firms, along with commercial businesses and individuals, will be the bank's founders. A decision was also made to create a commercial firm that would take over a number of functions regarding the implementation of space projects: the expert appraisal of projects, consulting, mediation, and attraction of loans and investment. The conference's organizing committee was tasked with completing the practical work required to set up a bank and a firm.

Thus, according to observers, attempts at cooperation between the business community and the former defense sector enterprises have taken up a more tangible form. KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported in December 1992 the first conference "Business People and Economic Assimilation of Outer Space." Let us recall that it resulted in the formation of a computerized business data base featuring proposals from both sides. [passage omitted]

The conference's organizers stated their intention to hold such conferences twice annually. They also plan to hold an exhibition and fair entitled "The Commercialization of Space" in Moscow between 2 and 10 October.

Mir-2 Designed, To Be Launched by Mid-1990's

LD1104094593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1403 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] A new orbital Mir-2 station has been designed. The manufacture of its main module is now underway. The station is expected to be launched into orbit in the mid-1990s. Five modules rigged to the central section of a long truss will constitute the nucleus of the station. Two large solar batteries will be rigged to one end of this truss, and to the other, two parabolic mirrors which will concentrate solar radiation.

One of the station's short modules will be equipped with an ordinary docking unit for receiving manned Soyuz ships and automatic transport cargo spacecraft. Other modules will be equipped with units for docking with the Russian space shuttle Buran and the U.S. shuttlecraft.

Economic Issues

Central Bank's Maximum Credit Growth Fixed at 30 Percent

LD1004154193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1501 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—The level of maximum growth of Russian Central Bank credits in the second quarter of this year is fixed at 30 per cent, under Friday's [9 April] decision of the Governmental Commission for Credit Policy and heads of the Central Bank, Russian Vice-Premier and Minister of Finance Boris Fedorov told correspondents at the governmental press center today.

In his words, the decision was supported by "three deputies of the bank chairman".

Fedorov described Friday's decision as historical, since "cooperation between the government and the Central Bank is mounting".

He said "a tendency of inflation drop from 30 per cent in January to 17 per cent in March is establishing". If the tough credit-monetary policy continues in Russia, real changes in economic and financial stabilization are possible. "If we do not curb down the inflation, all hopes for production increase will be fruitless," stressed Fedorov, noting cooperation between the government and the Central Bank inspires hope for stabilization and reform development.

State Property Committee Lists Bankrupt Enterprises

OW1104132493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [10 April], the Russian government's Council for Industrial Policies, consisting of the directors of the biggest industrial enterprises, gathered in Moscow for a conference which was also attended by Russia's vice-premiers Vladimir Shumeyko and Anatoliy Chubays. The discussion concentrated on the president's draft decrees regulating relations between state enterprises and the Russian state government bodies in the sphere of state property.

"Control over state property is an extremely important problem, because ultimately it determines whether the government will continue the course of reforms or some irreversible changes will take place in this process," Anatoliy Chubays told Interfax.

The Council approved the decrees, drafted by the State Committee for Property, which envisage the diminishing of the influence exerted by ministries and departments on the state enterprises' economic activity. "The government cannot disregard the Council's opinion and will have to take it into account," he said. He also confirmed that the State Committee for Property has made a list of enterprises which will be announced bankrupt soon in accordance with the law on bankruptcy.

Gold Prices To Be Set Monthly To Boost Production

MK0904133493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 9

[Georgiy Krivoruchenko report: "Russian Gold Diggers To Be Supported. Gold Prices To Be Set Once a Month"]

[Text] The state is planning to tighten up control over the gold producing industry. According to the directive by Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov that was reported by KOMMERSANT-DAILY yesterday, along with changing the procedure for issuing licenses it is proposed that a range of price, tax, and credit regulation measures be devised to provide an incentive to the industry's producers. The need to give state backing to enterprises producing gold and precious stones is long overdue. The inadequacy of investment policies in the industry has resulted in shrinking survey operations and stagnating production. The emergence of a large number of uncontrolled amateurish teams accounts for the inefficient utilization of goldfields.

The deputy prime minister's directive calls for a decision on federal bodies of state management for the industry to be drafted. It provides for the settlement prices and selling prices of precious metals to be recalculated once a month. It is also envisioned that loans for specific purposes will be granted in 1993-1995 to increase the capacities of gold producing enterprises and to modernize them. Matters related to finance for geological survey operations are to be reviewed within one month. The order recommends that proposals should be drawn up by 1 June for amending the law "On the Value-Added Tax" with regard to gold producing enterprises. It is noteworthy that Boris Fedorov's directive was signed immediately upon his return from Vancouver, where representatives of international finance organizations expressed their concern over Russia's diminishing creditworthiness following the recent government decision to sell 400 billion rubles worth of gold from state gold reserves. The directive is also the Finance Ministry's response to a proposal for the committee for precious metals to be subordinated to the Central Bank, which is regarded as the only chance to overcome the crisis in gold production.

Yeltsin Decree Specifies 1993 Aluminum Exports

LD0904162793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Russia will export 520,000 tonnes of primary aluminum in 1993 to purchase abroad raw materials, materials and equipment for production-technological needs of the aluminum industry, in accordance with a decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued here today.

Boris Yeltsin instructed interested ministries and departments to elaborate and submit in July, 1993, to the Russian Government a purpose-oriented program of comprehensive development of aluminum production, the presidential press service reports.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Addresses Moscow Meeting of Veterans

Says Yeltsin's Decrees 'Fatal for Homeland'

OW1304111093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament's leader Khasbulatov has declared "that President Yeltsin's decrees are fatal for the homeland since they're issued in defiance of the current legislation and in disregard for everything." Addressing veterans in Moscow on Tuesday [13 April], Mr. Khasbulatov assessed as a tragic mistake of the parliament and the congress of people's deputies the fact that "they somehow allowed the executive power to get out of the legislators' control." By giving in to the president and the government, Khasbulatov said, "we let the genie out of the bottle to dominate and to interpret laws as it pleases." The president and the government, in his opinion, stand in the way of reform. However, while the parliament has created a legislative base for economic reforms, not leading to the population's impoverishment and economic disarray, the president and the cabinet have been ignoring the laws, Khasbulatov stressed.

He voiced confidence that the lawmakers would cope with the situation and that "they had enough legitimate means to do that." "People who lost all shame and good sense destroyed the union and we're fully determined to prevent the break up of Russia," he declared.

At the same time, he voiced readiness to sit down at the conference table with the president and the cabinet to look for ways of cooperating.

In regard to the forthcoming referendum, he called on the veterans "to think properly before voting." In his words, the executive power has taken advantage of the referendum campaign for making speculations and aggravating domestic tension.

Views Treaty Ratification Prospects

OW1304105993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament's chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov has stressed that a major condition for the SALT-2 [as received] to be ratified is that "it must be submitted by a foreign minister, enjoying respect in society." "As long as there is no such minister," he rules out the possibility of the SALT-2 ratification by the Russian parliament. Khasbulatov declared this, answering questions at a meeting with war and labour veterans in the parliamentary center on 13 April.

Speaking about a referendum, he voiced fear that there are no full guarantees against fraud at the plebiscite. In his opinion, public control is essential for the count of votes. The speaker emphasized that he did not intend to be a candidate in the next elections and was ready to return to scientific work.

Asked about the parliament's law-making activity, Khasbulatov remarked that it was hindered by "a significant group of deputies, linked to the executive power and to the lobbying executive structures." The speaker suggested calling off the deputies, who "fight against Parliamentarism and who campaign for dissolving the parliament." In his opinion, these lawmakers must move to executive structures.

Assessing the outcome of the presidential elections in Kalmykia, Khasbulatov called on the audience to ponder the question of "who had brought the billionaire Kirsan Ilyumzhinov to the presidency." Drawing a parallel to the Chechen president Dzhokhar Dudayev, he reported that he had evidence, according to which Poltoranin and Burbulis had been involved in bringing Dudayev to power.

Khasbulatov explained the abolition of the presidency in Mordovia by President Guslyannikov's personal qualities: "He is either taken pity on or laughed at in the republic." "The Russian president's decree concerning the latest events in Mordovia, as the parliament's speaker believes, embodies a policy to dismember the Russian Federation." Boris Yeltsin, in his view, should not interfere in this situation.

Supreme Soviet Presidium Holds Session 12 April

Draft on Broadcasting Issues Discussed

LD1204163093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1507 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 April—The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation will examine a draft resolution connected with ensuring the freedom of speech in state television and radio broadcasting and in information services. This was decided today by the Presidium of the parliament.

In particular, the draft contains instructions for the Ministry of Finances and the Central Bank to take measures to halt the financing of the Federal Information Center, the "Rossiya" Federal Television and Radio Service, their structural subdivisions, and other enterprises and establishments that were set up on the basis of President Yeltsin's decrees.

Another measure is also envisaged: State television companies are given the duty of making changes in their statutes—with mandatory co-founding of the respective representative authoritative bodies. It is recommended that soviets at all levels "set up observer councils to ensure freedom of speech in state television and radio broadcasting companies."

The parliamentary draft resolution also contains the following point: To propose that the Federation Council of Ministers switch subordination of the directorate of television and radio broadcasting from the Ministry of Press and Information to direct subordination to the government, with the directorate's functions remaining the same.

Khasbulatov Views CIS Ties

LD1204175093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent M. Lillevyali; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet session resumed its work today. The presidium sat and work was conducted in committees and commissions.

[Lillevyali] At today's session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Ruslan Khasbulatov proposed that the question of the ratification of the CIS charter be examined on 15 April, at parliament's next session. Speaking on the fulfillment of inter-state agreements between the former union republics, he noted that these agreements are being deliberately concluded in such a way that they cannot possibly be fulfilled. In his opinion, a considerable portion of the provisions contained in the documents are absolutely devoid of substance. Ruslan Khasbulatov believes that such a state of affairs is impermissible, and he is sure that Russia should finally begin to strengthen its ties within the CIS.

The Presidium today also examined the question of the socio-economic development of Kemerovo oblast, where, as is known, political difficulties have appeared against a background of economic problems. The miners are threatening to strike.

[A. Tuleyev, chairman of Kemerovo oblast soviet] The Kuzbass does not need this. If the region is providing 80 percent of metallurgical coal, then one needs to think about this region through the prism of the Russian economy. If there is to be social stability in the region, if people are to be provided with work, and if it is not to die because of an incorrect economic policy, then all will be tranquil.

Further Khasbulatov Remarks

OW1204195493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia lags behind other CIS member countries in ratification of CIS documents, Ruslan Khasbulatov, parliament chairman, told Supreme Soviet presidium which discussed preparations for the next week's parliamentary debate on ratification of the CIS Charter.

Speaking of his visits to Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan March 18 to 21, Khasbulatov emphasized that "with its traditions and potential" Russia had a role to play in bringing closer together culturally and economically and uniting "the countries which started independent development."

Khasbulatov insisted that Russia should treat its relations with the former Soviet republics as its top priority and said that some bilateral agreements between their governments "lack substance" because they were worked out "in haste" while other, more serious, documents were not followed up by the government.

Decisions on Referendum Issues

LD1204184893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1818 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet permitted the appropriate commissions of the all-Russian referendum to carry out voting ahead of time, but not earlier than seven days before the date of the referendum, for Russian citizens on vessels of the trade, fishing, naval and river fleets who on April 25 will find themselves in foreign ports, as well as in collectives working in regions difficult of access and remote areas of the Russian Federation—in Polar stations, islands of the Arctic Ocean, logging areas, deer-breeding, fishing, hunting and drilling brigades. As for opening ballot-boxes, this will be done only on the day of the referendum. Polling-districts will be also formed abroad—in the embassies, general consulates and other institutions. According to preliminary estimates, there will be over 200 of them abroad. Information on the voting results will be sent to the Central Commission for the Referendum through the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Polling will be also organized in Russian armed forces, in troops and units —by their commanders, however, voting will be held only on the territory of Russia.

The lists of Russian citizens having the right to participate in the referendum, will also include Russians who are on short-term or long-term missions.

The Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet considered some measures connected with carrying out propaganda in the course of preparation for the referendum. In accordance with legislation of the Russian Federation, political parties, trade unions, other public organisations and movements, collectives and individual citizens have the right to freely campaign for or against a decision on this or that question put for the referendum. They can do it through news media and in other ways not contradicting the Russian laws, at their own account. It was stressed that news media shall provide equal possibilities for campaigning to all.

Fedorov Speaks at Hearings on Monetary, Credit Policy

'Fewer Disagreements' With Central Bank

LD1204125793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov, who had recently called to sack

Chairman of the Central Bank Viktor Geraschenko, said on Monday that there "are fewer disagreements with the Central Bank of late".

However, he criticised the bank's leaders for failing to take into account the economic programme of the government and the real situation in the country.

During parliamentary hearings on the basic directions of monetary and credit policy in 1993 on Monday, Fedorov called on the bank to avert "further discrimination" of the rouble which "escapes into hard currency, real estate or abroad".

He added that both administrative and economic measures are necessary for that and that the Central Bank has enough powers to achieve the goal.

"It is of principle importance that today the role of the Central Bank in our economy is ten times stronger than in the economy of any other country", Fedorov said.

The deputy prime minister agreed with Geraschenko that it is necessary to decrease the budget deficit and curb inflation.

"It is impossible to have 2,500 per cent inflation and raise the living standards" of the population, he added.

Calls Inflation Key Problem

OW1204135193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1306 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "At last, the government and the Central Bank have begun to understand each other," Vice-Premier Boris Fedorov stated on Monday [12 April] during the parliamentary hearings on the Central Bank's credit and monetary policies. "Given this, all the talk about removing Viktor Gerashchenko from his post is out of place," he added.

He also said that the "monstrous" inflation, standing at 2,500% in 1992, was the key problem of Russia's financial policy. "If inflation is not beaten down by tough measures, no further investments will be made, while finances will be streaming out of the country and the dollar will be streaming in" Fedorov stated that the government intends to shape the policy of subsidies and privileges openly. The worth of last year's subsidies and privileges could be compared with the size of an official state budget, said Fedorov.

Examines Credit Policy

LD1204191193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Minister of Finance Boris Fedorov is preparing to visit Japan tomorrow in order to take part in the conference of the Group of Seven, where the question of credits to Russia will again be examined.

[Correspondent G. Fadeyeva] It is possible that it is precisely for this reason that, at the hearings in the Supreme Soviet today on the main directions of finance and currency regulation for 1993, Boris Fedorov urged the Russian Central Bank to work in harness with the government.

[Begin Fedorov recording] Recently, our differences with the Central Bank have become fewer. [end recording]

[Fadeyeyva] The differences concerned, first, credit policy. It should be fairly limited: that's what they think at the Central Bank. But in the government's opinion it should be tough. The second problem concerns the correlation of currencies. In the Central Bank's view it could be fixed; the government believes that only the market can establish this balance. However, at least one compromise, it seems, was found. Credits for the second quarter will be increased by just 30 percent compared with the first quarter. This amounts to 3 trillion rubles.

[Begin Fedorov recording] We are giving the impression today that nothing is happening and that we can live with 2,500 percent inflation and that we can raise the standard of living, deal in investment, and so on. I think that we are deluding ourselves. [end recording]

[Fadeyeva] As, incidentally, in the favorite expression of Gerashchenko, the chairman of the Central Bank, we are regarding the preservation of socialist enterprises at the expense of some kind of mysterious internal reserves.

More on Fedorov Remarks

LD1204231693

[Editorial report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1950 GMT on 12 April carries a nine-minute recording of a speech made by Boris Fedorov, vice premier and finance minister, to the Russian Supreme Soviet's Soviet of Nationalities in Moscow on 12 April. He also answers deputies' questions.

Fedorov begins by saying that the aims of financial and credit policy must be specified. He continues: "The main task of financial and credit policy must primarily be that which is the main function of the Central Bank: strengthening money. Strengthening money, naturally, means reducing inflation." The monetarist policies conceived to date are not relevant to the Russian situation, he says. More simple and comprehensible measures are required. The Central Bank has called on the government to balance the budget: There is no reason yearend targets cannot be set if plans are made for each quarter consecutively. Current arguments as to the primacy of causes of inflation are futile, as they are indivisible.

Fedorov continues: "I think the main problem here is that most people still do not fully realize that they are living in a market economy—not a civilized one in terms of regulation, but nonetheless a market economy in which the main mass of goods and prices are set on a purely market basis." For this reason, corrective measures are all the more difficult. For any other country, 2,500 percent inflation would be a catastrophe and extraordinary measures would be taken, while in Russia people pretend that it is a normal state of affairs, even though nobody knows how to work under such conditions. Nobody prepared for inflation of this kind in their budgeting. "Naturally, neither are we ready for normal price forecasting in this situation. What sort of system is there? Why have all these theories of inflation suddenly become popular? Somebody looked in a Western textbook, saw that the concept exists, and decided that we have just the same sort of inflation."

Fedorov says it is impossible simply to transfer the Western experience. New conditions require a new approach. In reply to a question on the distinction between earned and unearned income, Fedorov says that the main problem lay in delays in payments: If a payment is delayed too long, inflation makes it practically worthless. It is clear, however, that the larger the black market, the less taxes are paid, and so: "Naturally, I think that in our situation up to, I don't know, 40 percent of tax is not being collected, for various reasons." This leads to further imbalance in the economy and further difficulties in budgeting. "So the most important principle, or one of the most important principles of a market economy is that there should be as little as possible of these black, grey, or whatever you want to call them economies, that everything should be legalized and put under control."

Central Bank Chairman Geraschenko Appears at Hearings

Opposes Compensation of Bank Deposits

LD1204113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1107 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Central Bank of Russia opposes plans to increase in 1993 incomes of the population and compensate bank deposits which drastically shrank after prices were released from state control, according to Chairman of the bank Viktor Geraschenko.

"The adoption of hasty and poorly calculated decisions will boost inflation and, instead of promoting social support, will result in further decrease in living standards", he said at parliamentary hearings on the basic directions of monetary and credit policy in 1993 on Monday.

The chief banker called on the government to curb expenses and initiate the closure of inefficient enterprises.

Geraschenko said his main task is to curtail inflation. The bank will adhere to the strategy of moderate money emission. First, it is necessary to stabilise its growth rate and later to gradually decrease it.

"As prospects of Russian economic development this year are vague, the bank plans to determine the guidelines for emission growth for each quarter of the year on the basis of the latest information on inflation, the volume of production and employment", Geraschenko said, adding that the guidelines are to be approved by parliament.

The chief banker said that credits to commercial banks, the government and CIS countries can be increased up to three trillion roubles in the second quarter of the year. Nearly a half of the money will go to the Russian Finance Ministry.

Notes Difficulty in Curtailing Inflation

OW1204140093 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1306 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia (CBR) believes that its major task is to restrict inflation, however, one can hardly radically influence inflationary tendencies in the second quarter of this year, the CBR Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko declared on Monday [12 April] at the parliamentary hearings on CBR fiscal policy for 1993.

In Gerashchenko's words, the average growth of money supply reduced in January-February 1993 to 13% in comparison with 17% in the fourth quarter of 1992. The growth of credit mass has also reduced in the first quarter in comparison with the fourth quarter of 1992. Nevertheless, Gerashchenko believes, it would be hardly possible to lower the rate of money supply's growth to 8-10% a month, as supporters of "super-strict fiscal policy" propose.

In the second quarter of 1993 the Central Bank can allocate to commercial banks for credit not more than 1.5-1.6 trillion rubles, Gerashchenko said. He drew the attention of the governmental commission headed by Vice Premier Boris Fedorov, to credit policy, to the fact that it is necessary to consider this limit while meeting credit requests of state enterprises.

Gerashchenko also noted that, as the opportunities of the Central Bank to credit the national economy are limited, it is expedient for the Economics Ministry to activate the structural policy and to start implementing programs aimed at curtailing the number of inefficient enterprises by resorting to bankruptcies, in particular.

Gerashchenko warned that the crisis of enterprises' mutual non-payments may aggravate due to ineffective distribution of the limited credit resources, and he warned defaulting on loans could become a much more common occurrence. As a result, a demand for Central Bank credits may grow in the third quarter of 1993 as well and the Central Bank will be forced to compensate this increase in the state budget deficit at the expense of additional credit emission.

Favors Accountability to Parliament

OW1204173793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During parliamentary hearings on the Central Bank's credit and monetary policy, its chairman Viktor Gerashchenko said that he did not share Vice Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov's views on the nature of inflation in Russia. Gerashchenko said that inflation was being caused by the "uncontrollable economic potential" and that even accelerated privatization would not fully solve this problem.

He also thinks that the main reason for the current situation was the sharp change-over to a new scale of prices. Over the past 25 years, the USSR's state debt of 2.5 Bn [billion]. Rubles grew to form Russia's debt of 1 Tn [trillion]. Rubles by 1992 and subsequently increased by another 2 Tn. Rubles. Preliminary estimates, taking into account the investment and conversion programs, CIS credits and payments against the foreign debt, suggest that the budget deficit is expected to increase at least by 9-10 Tn. Rubles in 1993.

Speaking about the Central Bank's accountability to the parliament, Gerashchenko said that he did not object to that, because the government had not yet rid itself of the habit of influencing the Central Bank.

He also emphasized that the Central Bank was ready to extend credits to the budget at a market rate. "Believe me, we have enough paper and computers to multiply the finance ministry's debt by 100%," he said. He added, however, that such a prospect was hardly probable.

Deputies File Appeals Against Congress With Court

LD0904142293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—More appeals have been filed by members of the Russian Supreme Soviet to check the constitutionality of several decisions passed by the 9th Congress of People's Deputies, ITAR-TASS was told at the press service of the Russian Constitutional Court.

The appeals question the constitutionality of congress decisions on the referendum's vote-counting system, on the stabilisation of the constitutional system in the Russian Federation, on the violation of public law and order by participants of several recent meetings in Moscow, held simultaneously with the congress, as well as the congress's attempt to impeach the president.

The signatories of these appeals include several prominent leaders of the "Democratic Russia" movement—Gleb Yakunin, Sergey Yushenkov and Lev Ponomaryov. The appeals have already been officially accepted. A ruling on the referendum's vote-counting system is expected to be passed on April 25.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Visits Kuznetsk Basin To Discuss Referendum

To Appeal to Miners for Support

OW1204171093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin is to visit the Kuznetsk Basin to ask the region's miners for support at the April 25 referendum, a senior official in the Novokuznetsk city administration told Interfax. He said Yeltsin attached special importance to the support he received from coal mining areas, in particular from the southern Kuznetsk Basin. Miners there had more than once shown their readiness to go on strike when the president's positions were imperiled.

The majority of mine managers in Novokuznetsk, Prokopyevsk, and Mezhdurechenksk expect Yeltsin to respond to their backing by sanctioning the setting up in the Southern Kuznetsk Basin of a joint-stock company independent from the rest of the Kuznetsk Basin. The head of administration of the Kuznetsk Basin, Mikhail Kislyuk, sharply criticized "economic separatists" for seeking "to ruin completely that which is yet unspoiled." The president would not be party to that even in exchange for their support, Kislyuk said.

To Sign Decree

OW1204193093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1859 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The main document which the Kemerovo regional administration intends to discuss with Boris Yeltsin on April 12 during his brief visit to Novokuznetsk is the draft decree on the development of the Kuznetsk Coal Basin.

The president is expected to spend slightly more than 6 hours in Novokuznetsk. While there he will visit the Novokuznetsk steel works, the Abashevskaya mine, a maternity hospital and one of the local social welfare departments. At the end of the day, he is expected to meet economic administrators from the Kemerovo region and local entrepreneurs.

Yeltsin will fly from Novokuznetsk to Moscow at 20:30 local time (16:30 Moscow time [1230 GMT]).

Welcomed by Local Officials

LD1304072493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0630 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Talalayev and Grigory Shalakin]

[Text] Novokuznetsk (Kemerovo region) April 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in the Kuznetsk coal basin (Kuzbass) today. At the airport of the city of Novokuznetsk he was welcomed by chairman of the Kemerovo regional council Aman Tuleyev, head of the regional administration Mikhail Kislyuk, members of the city leadership and of local trade union organisations.

Pledges Miners' Protection Program

LD1304083593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0801 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Talalayev and Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Novokuznetsk April 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said he cannot predict the results of the nationwide referendum on April 25, but promised to continue reforms if supported by the people.

"If the people trust us, we shall conduct a more determined policy of reform. In this period I do not think much about myself, I think about the future of the whole of Russia", Yeltsin said upon arrival in the Kemerovo region, a major Russian coal basin, on Tuesday [13 April].

He added that the government had worked out a state programme of social protection for coal miners and promised that the document will not be adopted without a thorough discussion with the people.

Yeltsin was welcomed in the airport by head of the regional council Aman Tuleyev, who bitterly criticised the president at the latest Congress of People's Deputies.

He said a package of issues aimed to boost the economic development of the coal region has been prepared. "If the president approves of it, this will render great help to the region", Tuleyev said.

From the airport Yeltsin left for the "Abashevskaya" mine to discuss the problems facing its workers and management.

He will have a meeting with local health workers later in the day.

Minister on Development of Kuzbass Coal Industry

LD1104191393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo April 11 TASS—Russian Minister of Fuel and Power Engineering, Yuriy Shafranik, who is currently in Kemerovo, discussed problems of the development of the coal industry in Kuzbass with the region administration and visited the "Kedrovskiy" coal strip mine. On Monday [12 April] the minister is expected to go to the city of Novokuznetsk to familiarize himself with the state of affairs in the "Kuznetskugol" joint-stock company.

The main problem which is worrying miners of the region is the prospects for a price policy in the coal industry. The point is that the existing now so-called settlement prices of coal only partially meet the production needs even when the cheapest open mining of coal deposits is carried out. State subsidies always come late to the enterprises of the industry, and coal miners remain kind of eternal debtors to power engineering workers, railmen, suppliers of materials and equipment.

Managers Demand Free Coal Prices

OW1204173893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The managers of coal mining enterprises in the Kuznetsk basin have demanded the immediate liberalization of domestic coal prices and exemption from the mandatory sale of 50 percent of the hard currency revenue from coal exports in case it is used to purchase material resources and technology and reorganize production. They put forward the demand at a meeting with the Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik in Novokuznetsk on Monday [12 April].

The General Directors also believe it is necessary to reconsider the government's policy of subsidies to the coal industry and make the export of their enterprises exempt from customs duties in order to channel additional resources into social and economic development.

Most coal mines of the region and the whole of Russia have found themselves in a serious financial crisis due to the break up of the previous management system and the preservation of fixed coal prices. At present the domestic price of one ton of coal is 4 thousand rubles, while it costs more than 8 thousand to move that ton from Kuznetsk to Moscow. In the meantime coal production in the Kuznetsk coalfields has reduced by 40 million tons to 112 million. Non-payments in the coal industry total 26 billion rubles.

The fuel and energy minister believes the sole way out of the current situation is setting up a network of regional and departmental commercial banks to accumulate funds to be able to credit the extracting enterprises. Shafranik also said that the leaders of the industry would have to work out special investment programs to work on the most productive coalfields and cut production at or close down a number of low-profit mines and opencast collieries. Experts at the fuel and energy ministry believe that free coal prices may bring about the bankruptcies of major metallurgical plants and the closures of 110 mines in Russia, which, in turn, would lead to the loss of about 100 million tons of coal and higher social tension throughout the country.

Minister: Prices Must Be Regulated

LD1204180993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1756 GMT 12 Apr 93

[BY ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo April 12 TASS—Coal prices should be regulated by the state, Russian Minister of Fuel and Power Engineering Yuriy Shafranik said at a meeting with Kuzbass mines' managers in Novokuznetsk today. This is needed to save the economy from total collapse, he stressed.

According to Shafranik, specialists at the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering will present the coal prices regulation mechanism to the judgement of managers of the industry's coal enterprises shortly.

He also pointed out that the policy of shunting teams of miners who completed the exploitation of old fields onto new productive fields and applying advanced fuel processing technologies will be pursued in the industry.

Shafranik will stay in Kuzbass for another two days to meet the region's power engineering and oil and gas industry specialists.

Vice Premier Voices Support for Continuing Land Reform

OW1204102093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1004 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, now on a working visit in the Krasnodar region, reiterated government support for the agro-industrial complex and called for continuing the land reform. As fresh evidence of this backing, he referred to the decision adopted by the government last Friday [9 April] to stabilize agricultural production in 1993.

By the decision, farmers get new easy-term credits to above all ensure the material and technical maintenance of the spring sowing campaign - to buy fuel, lubricants, fertilizers, and seeds.

Farmers will feed Russia, if they are given the chance to work calmly at last, Mr. Zaveryukha said in an interview with Interfax. About the upcoming referendum, he warned against urging the population to take part in it since everyone had already decided what to vote for on April 25.

The people do not need revolutionary decisions, Mr. Zaveryukha believes, since the country has experienced quite a few of them over a short period. To avoid upheavals today, the vice-premier stressed, President Yeltsin should be allowed to complete in peace the term for which the people elected him.

Mr. Zaveryukha has been touring southern Russia - the Krasnodar, Stavropol, and Rostov regions to check the pace of farming there. The prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is expected in Krasnodar on Tuesday to attend a conference on the sowing campaign.

Chernomyrdin Schedules Tour of Krasnodar, Stavropol

OW1204143093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1306 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will set off on a working tour of the Krasnodar and Stavropol regions, southern Russia, where sowing is under way. His Press Secretary Pavel Gurin has reported to INTERFAX that the purpose of his two-day visit, starting Tuesday [13 April], is to familiarize himself with the sowing campaign and with the state of affairs in the agro-industrial complex as a whole.

According to the press secretary's report, upon his arrival in Krasnodar in the first half of the day on Tuesday, Mr. Chernomyrdin will inspect a grain and oil-bearing plants processing plant in the Vyselkovskiy area. He will then visit the "Niva" joint-stock company and the "Kuban" cooperative farm in the Ust-Labinskiy area. In the evening on the same day the premier will return to Krasnodar to meet local farm and industrial managers and representatives of state-run and private businesses.

Mr. Chernomyrdin will spend 14-15 April in the Stavropol region to continue his familiarization with the pace of sowing. He will inspect state-run and private farms, crops storages and refineries.

He is scheduled to return to Moscow 15 April.

Arrives in Krasnodar

LD1304110593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar April 13 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived here today. The purpose of his visit to the Krasnodar territory (Kuban) is to study the situation in the agricultural sector. He will visit today a number of farms and enterprises and will take part in the work of a conference of heads of local administration bodies, senior officials from agricultural enterprises and individual farmers. It will sum up the results of the work of a special commission of the Russian parliament and Government, which studied the situation in the agricultural sector of Kuban.

'State of Calm Confrontation Prevails' in Mordovia

LD1204141593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Papeta]

[Text] Saransk April 12 TASS—A state of calm confrontation prevails in Mordovia after the abolition of the president's office by its parliament.

"President of Mordovia Vasiliy Guslyannikov and the government are continuing to work. They have not ceased their activities even for an hour," the president's press secretary told ITAR-TASS.

"These days, in particular, preparations are underway to conclude an agreement between the Russian Federation and Mordovia on additional subsidies from the federal budget within the framework of the special decree, envisaging measures to provide social support to the republic, which was issued a few months ago by President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin. A group of the presidential and federal government representatives, which arrived from Moscow, has been taking part in the preparation of this document," the press secretary said.

Guslyannikov's position is that there is a need to wait for the assessment of the situation by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, but if its verdict does not follow or it does not satisfy the abolished structure, then evidently approporiate measures will be adopted by the president of the Russian Federation and the president of the Mordovian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Chairman of the Mordovian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Nikolay Biryukov has been appraised of this stand, but he, according to the press secretaty, refused to accept the information for consideration, demanding the presidential structure vacate the building and premises occupied by it.

Vice-president Vladimir Narezhniy, who has met with Chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin in Moscow, has been advised that both parties try to resolve this issue as "cordially" as possible.

On the whole a state of calm confrontation prevails in the republic. So far there have been no meetings and demonstrations. Newspapers and other media, on the whole, have been expressing sympathy or support to the abolished presidential authority.

But at the same time, Valeriy Shvetsov, reappointed chairman of the Council of Ministers—the government of the Mordovian Soviet Socialist Republic—has begun forming his new Cabinet of Ministers. The confronting sides have not been in contact for consultations and talks.

Chechnya Accuses Russia of Backing Armenia in Fighting

LD1204111493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0935 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 12 Apr—The leadership of Chechnya has accused Russia of backing the Armenian side in its aggression against Azerbaijan. A statement by the republic's Foreign Ministry issued in Groznyy today says that "the local conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is developing into an all-out war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenian troops have invaded the territory of Azerbaijan with the support of a third force well-known to everybody, i.e. Russia."

The government of Chechnya, the document underlines, calls on heads of states with goodwill not to stay on the sidelines but to make every necessary effort to prevent a large-scale war between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Chechen Security Minister Removed From Post

LD1304072893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A meeting of the collegium of the Chechen Republic Security Ministry took place yesterday in Groznyy. According to unofficial data, the security minister was removed from his post at the meeting. To avert possible dissatisfaction and actions in response by supporters of the removed minister, a special subunit of the Security Ministry was put on alert and an armored personnel carrier was driven up to the ministry building.

Chechnya To Stay Out of Referendum Says Spokesman

OW0904040693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0203 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There haven't been even separate calls in Chechnya for an all-Russia referendum to be held on 25 April, the Parliament Vice-Chairman Lomali Kamzayev said to INTERFAX on Thursday [8 April]. He stressed that "individuals and political movements alike agree that holding an all-Russia referendum is against the constitution of the republic." At the same time, in Mr. Kamzayev's words, the population of Chechnya favors a republican referendum to learn what citizens think about the simultaneous holding of presidential and parliamentary elections at an early date.

Mr. Kamzayev reported that more than 60,000 signatures had been collected by now in support of a referendum, and a signature-raising group intended to increase this number to 100,000 by the weekend.

Chechen Opposition Offered Economic Policy Voice

PM1304081393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 93 First Edition p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "Chechen President and Opposition Leaders Agree on Cooperation in Conducting Economic Policy"]

[Text] A statement published on the results of the meeting [no further details given] says that the sides abandoned their mutual recriminations. The opposition leaders asked Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections and suggested that he put forward an appropriate legislative initiative. Although agreeing in principle with this idea, Dudayev said that in the present political conditions holding elections could have unpredictable consequences. He asked the opposition to take part in formulating the state's economic strategy and pointed out that the membership of the cabinet of ministers will undergo considerable changes in the near future. Representatives of Chechnya's business circles backed the president's endeavor to involve the opposition in formulating economic policy.

Results for Local Administration Elections Given

OW1204172293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Penza region Anatoliy Kovlyagin is said to have won convincingly last Sunday's [4 April] election of a new Penza regional administration head with 505,490 voters, or 44 percent of the total electorate, supporting him. By the Russian law, to be elected one should secure the support of at least 25 percent of the electorate.

A total of 707,000, or 62 percent of the electorate, took part in the voting.

Kovlyagin, 55, is a member of the Russian parliament's Constitutional Commission but does not belong to a parliamentary party.

After preliminary reports, Yegor Stroyev, 56, director of the Fruit Selection Research Institute, has been elected in Orel region. He won 35 percent of the total number of people on the election role. He said he would rely on the services of professionals, whatever their political views. Regional council workers said that the new administration chief intended to support "everything reasonable" in the government's economic reforms and was popular locally.

Nearly 65 percent of the total of 676,000 people eligible for voting in the region turned up to vote.

None of the nine candidates in Chelyabinsk region has won the necessary 25 percent of all the votes cast. The largest share, 17.7 percent of the electoral role, or 56.3 percent of all who came to polling stations, was won by the current head of the region council Pyotr Sumin. His runner up, Vladimir Grigoriadi, head of administration in the city of Miass, had 1.98 percent of the list of people eligible for voting, or 6.3 percent of the votes cast.

A total of 2,622,744 are eligible; 824,386 of them, or 31.43 percent, took part in the voting.

By the Russian law, a second round of voting must be held in two weeks with only Sumin and Grigoriadi in the ballots. A simple majority is needed to be elected in the run-off election.

On the eve of the election President Boris Yeltsin had signed a decree confirming the powers of the current head of the Chelyabinsk regional administration. Earlier, the regional court's civil collegium had rescinded the decision of the local council on holding an election and proclaimed illegal the April 11 election.

Interfax was told by an official in the election commission of the region council that the election did not signify confrontation with the center because neither the presidential decree nor the court ruling banned the election. On the other hand, the electoral activity fell dramatically because of the decree and the ruling. Nevertheless, the commission regarded the first round of the election as duly held.

A run-off election will also be held in Bryansk region where none of the 14 candidates won the support of at least 25 percent of the electorate.

The largest share, about 20 percent, was won by the current administration head Vladimir Barabanov whose nomination by the democratic group in the region council was upheld by the president of the Russian Federation 18 months ago. Yuriy Lotkin, supporter of a communist platform and ITAR-TASS correspondent in the region, had nearly 17 percent.

A total of 54 percent of the electorate came to polling stations Sunday.

Moscow Air Defense To Be Downsized, Receive Su-27's

MK1004124493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 1

[Dmitriy Kholodov report: "Holiday Treats. Waiting for a Matthias Rust"]

[Text] Today the Moscow air defense system [PVO] can cope with over 1,000 aircraft and cruise missiles of a potential foe. The system's effectiveness has been demonstrated by the latest tactical exercise during which out of 27 targets, 26 were destroyed. In the near future, however, the PVO's combat capacity around Moscow will be reduced by 10 to 15 percent following cutbacks in missile and aviation units. The southern (!) flank will be affected most.

We are taking great pleasure in presenting this absolutely confidential information to the public in honor of a holiday—PVO Day. May our enemies beware, because soon not only cruise missiles, but even the notorious Rust will not get through to the glorious capital.

Our Moscow skies will now be guarded by new aircraft—Su-27's. Pilots at the Bezhetskiy PVO air regiment got them back in November, and they will start operating them beginning 1 August. Ten aircraft are brand-new. The others are from Latvia, Georgia, and Uzbekistan.

This aircraft is remarkable for its outstanding performance. Russian air aces, performing demonstration flights, proved this convincingly: The machine is versatile and the rigid laws of physics can therefore be disregarded. It flies vertically upward and vertically downward, upside down, and on its side. In a fit of enthusiasm, the pilot put on a real top-class show: His Su-27 moved in for a landing, did not land, but after bouncing some on its rear wheels, without touching the ground with its front ones, it took off again.

Two squadrons in the Bezhetskiy regiment have been treated to the Su-27's. God loves a trinity, and so there will be a third one. Soon several Su-27's will fly to Astrakhan. There on a state testing range the planes will do a little shooting, and then return to Moscow. The entire journey will be made without landing or refueling.

In honor of the holiday Moscow PVO district commander Anatoliy Kornukhov organized a press conference, where the above super-secret facts were presented. Responding to a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS question about when the PVO had last detected a UFO, the commander said that although the radars did not pick them up, in 1989 he witnessed a strange disappearance without a trace of the most advanced interceptor, which was flown by an experienced pilot. During that time a UFO sighting was reported.

Moscow Air Defense Chief Interviewed

LD1104171493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with Colonel General Anatoliy Mikhaylovich Krynukov, commander of Moscow district air defense troops, by correspondent Tatyama Chemodanova, on Air Defense Troops Day, 11 April—live or recorded]

[Text] [Chemodanova] Anatoliy Mikhaylovich, the view has recently become widespread that air defense troops as such seem to have become obsolete, redundant. A recent article in the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS suggested that air defense forces should be merged with or transferred to ground forces. As someone who has devoted many years to this force, what do you think about such views?

[Krynukov] I think that these rumors are groundless. As a veteran of the air defense troops, I will say that air defense troops were necessary and will be necessary. Nobody but air defense troops can preserve troops both for defensive operations and subsequent counteroffensive operations during war. Air defense is necessary in peaceful times, too. Our world is far from serene, and local conflicts are flaring up in different regions. The possibility of an aerial device being launched with obviously extremist and terrorist purposes cannot be ruled out.

As regards the future, I think that the fact that hundreds of billions of rubles have been invested in developing an integral air defense system cannot be dismissed. The system incorporates many automated devices, and new anti-aircraft and missile and aviation installations.

[Chemodanova] Can we be sure that our state border will be reliably protected?

[Krynukov] Yes, I think that residents of the central region, which is the Moscow district's responsibility as regards the state border, can rest assured that we will fulfill our duty. The stable situation in the forces and the permanently high efficiency shown by our anti-aircraft gunners and pilots during practical exercises involving field firing are evidence of this.

[Chemodanova] Anatoliy Mikhaylovich, although this is a festive day, we are unlikely to forget about problems. What are the most topical problems of air defense?

[Krynukov] First of all, it is the problem of reforms and the way they affect people's lives. We are doing everything possible in order to make this process the least painful for people and, naturally, for the integrity and reliability of the air defense system.

Touching on the problem of numerical strength, if no positive changes are ensured, by this autumn the numerical strength of soldiers and sergeants will be under 10 percent of what is required and, consequently, the control posts at operational sites will be manned only by warrant officers and servicewomen.

[Chemodanova] So what is the solution?

[Krynukov] There is only one solution: The laws adopted by the Supreme Soviet should be amended and the legal basis of contract service should be established as soon as possible. This year we have already enrolled about 1,000 people to be later transferred to contract service. This process is continuing, but it has not been so far backed by a legal basis.

[Chemodanova] On this festive day I would like to wish you success and all the best.

[Krynukov] Thank you.

Yeltsin Supports Revived Cossack Way of Life, Traditions

OW1004120693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has called the revival of the Cossacks' way of life and traditions as "one of the significant developments in new, democratic Russia." In a message to the Council of Atamans of Cossack Troops, he says, "In spite of mass persecution and acts of genocide during the Civil War and in other periods of the recent past, the Cossacks have managed to preserve their own special way of life and their traditions typical of this part of the Russian people."

"The change experienced by Russia after the failure of the putsch in August 1991 has had considerable effect on the Cossacks as well. They have risen to the defense of their rights flouted by the totalitarian regime," Yeltsin continues. He states his support for the Cossacks' desire to have land and other property, and to bring back their traditions.

"Now we have increasing opportunities for the just solution of the Cossacks' problems, and for creating legislation meeting the interests of the native Cossack population of the Don, Kuban, and Ural areas, Siberia, and the Far East," the president says. He expresses the hope that, following the referendum, "which you, us, and the rest of the Russian people must win, we will be able to remove, by joint efforts, the artificial obstacles to the revival of the Cossack's way of life and traditions."

New Leningrad Naval Base Commander on Tasks Ahead

PM0804142393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Farid Fazulzyanov: "New Leningrad Naval Base Commander's Role Unchanged"]

[Text] As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported (see the 2 April issue), during his stay in St. Petersburg Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev issued an order appointing Rear Admiral Vladimir Grishanov to the vacant post of commander of the Leningrad Naval Base.

Vladimir Vasilyevich was born in 1945 in the Solovetskiye Islands. In 1968, having graduated from the Higher Naval College named for M.V. Frunze, he was sent to the Black Sea Fleet, where he climbed the ladder from junior navigator to submarine division commander. He is a graduate of the Naval Academy and the Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy. In 1992 he became chief of staff at the Leningrad Naval Base and was acting base commander for around seven months.

"My main role remains the same," Rear Admiral Grishanov said, accepting KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's congratulations on the appointment. "First of all it is necsssary to resolve accommodation problems for around 2,000 Leningrad Military Base servicemen, who will be joined in the very near future by at least as many commissioned and warrant officers again from the Baltic area. We already have positive experience of work with contractors, as the defense minister said."

[Fazulzyanov] But how are the problems of stationing the naval forces that are being withdrawn from the Baltic area going to be resolved? After all, Kronshtadt is obviously too small to take them all...

[Grishanov] There will be vacant spaces at the Kronshtadt docks with obsolete ships being written off. It has been decided to modernize old and build new base facilities. We will set about building a civilian port in Ust-Luga and we will be placing ships in Lomonosov and Primorsk. I hope that the naval seamen's interests will be given full consideration.

Forces in Kaliningrad 'Re-Subordinated' to Moscow

OW0904062993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2119 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All units of ground forces stationed in Russia's Kaliningrad Province have been re-subordinated directly to the General staff of the Russian Army, the press service of the Northern-Western Group of Forces' headquarters reported to BALTFAX.

Consequently, today the North-Western Group of Forces unites only those Russian ground forces which are stationed in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

Situation in Ingushetia-Ossetian Conflict 'Strained'

LD0904210993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1812 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 9 TASS—The situation in the state of emergency zone on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia remains rather strained, but is fully controlled by the Russian peacekeeping forces, chief of the temporary administration staff Yuriy Savenkov told ITAR-TASS on Friday [9 April].

The criminological situation in the region remains tense as well. Over the past twenty-four hours, 18 crimes were registered in the armed conflict zone, and more than a thousand motor-cars were inspected. Seven pieces of firearms, a lot of grenades and five hundred cartridges were confiscated from local residents.

The temporary administration press service reports that head of the temporary administration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Colonel-General Yuriy Shatalin, met on Friday with Ingush President Ruslan Aushev in Nazran. They discussed a number of measures aiming to stabilize the situation in the Ingush-Ossetian conflict zone, to solve the problem of refugees and forced migrants in the Ingush and North Ossetian Republics.

According to Vladimir Ugrovatov, a representative of Russia's state committee for federations and nationalities who now heads the negotiating service at the temporary administration, the service held consultations with leaders of Ingushetia and North Ossetia on the composition of a mixed commission from the both republics, as well as on the place and timing of the commission's meeting, principles of joint work aimed at implementing the Kislovodsk agreement providing for a complex solution of the problem of refugees and forced migrants in Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

Ingush Vice President Holds Moscow News Conference

LD0904213693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1841 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—It is still far from achieving peace and calm in the North Caucasus, Boris Agapov, vice-president of the Ingush Republic told a news conference in Moscow on Friday [9 April].

According to Boris Agapov, after signing an agreement on measures for the comprehensive settlement of the problem of refugees and forced resettlers on the territory of the Ingush Republic and the North Ossetian Republic on March 20 in Kislovodsk, no specific steps towards its implementation have been made yet. The organized process of returning refugees to the Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia has not yet begun. Up to the present day, the mixed commission consisting of representatives of the both sides for the settlement of the problem of returning refugees has not started to work as the Ossetian side has not submitted a list of its representatives to the temporary administration.

It should be noted that the temporary administration does not give full guarantee of the security of refugees returning to the Prigorodnyy district. This may force the returning people to take care of their security on their own, which is fraught with new outbursts of tension, Boris Agapov pointed out.

The Ingush vice-president denied rumours that Ingushetia is preparing armed units for a new attack on North Ossetia saying that as of today there is not a single illegal armed unit on the Ingush territory. At the same time he admitted that the population has weapons.

Boris Agapov noted that the Ingush leadership is insisting on the withdrawal of the Russian Motorized Infantry Regiment from the territory of the republic.

Touching on the territorial problems, the vice-president of the Ingush Republic said that when resolving the territorial issue it is necessary to bear in mind that "Ingushetia will not give up its rights for its legitimate territories and any compromise decisions in the settlement of this issue are fraught with conflicts."

Latest Situation in North Ossetia Reported

LD1004143393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1405 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 10 TASS—According to a report of the temporary administration headquarters, the situation in the limited zone of the state of emergency regime remains complicated.

The Russian peace-making forces fully control the situation, the headquarters said.

A total of 29 crimes and incidents have been registered in the area over the past 24 hours, 32 people have been detained for administrative violations, seven pieces of fire arms, grenades and cartridges have been removed from local residents.

A powerful explosive device was revealed and rendered harmless near the Neftebaza check point in the Prigorodnyy region on April 9. The Russian Interior Ministry's team continues to collect information on hostages and missing persons.

An instruction of Ingush President Ruslan Aushev "on persons with no permanent place of residence" was sent today to the temporary administration headquarters. The instruction noted facts of use by specific Ingush residents of persons with no permanent place of residence, including refugees, for their needs. Heads of local administrations are instructed to prevent such cases.

Russian Denies Alleged Abuses in Igushetia, N. Ossetia

MK1004113893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 93 p 3

[Natalya Pachegina report published in "North Caucasus" column: "Dangerous Housewarming Parties in Prigorodnyy Rayon. Ingush Houses in North Ossetia Taken Over by Refugees From Tskhinvali, Russians"]

[Excerpts] Reports from Nazran say that in spite of the Russian Federation president's edict on extending the term of the state of emergency and narrowing the area covered by the emergency regulations to the boundaries of Nazranovskiy Rayon (Ingushetia) and Prigorodnyy Rayon (North Ossetia), the situation there has not calmed down. Russian Army servicemen, the Ingush

Republic president's press secretary Archakov stated, are conducting house-to-house searches among civilian residents of villages in Nazranovskiy Rayon of Ingushetia. On 7 April in the village of Dolakovo, for instance, they broke into homes without any reason, insulting the occupants and smashing everything in sight. [passage omitted]

The arbitrariness of North Ossetian authorities and, against this backdrop, the inaction of the Interim Administration, the president's press secretary said, became a subject of telephone talks between Aushev, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Russian Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin. The Ingush Republic's president sent telegrams to Russian Federation President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, expressing his discontent over the connivance on the part of the Interim Administration over the actions of the North Ossetian leadership. The Ingush president demanded that Vladikavkaz "be taken in hand," reminding the Russian authorities of the need to fulfill the decisions of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies and the Russian Federation president's edicts.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent asked a senior investigator of the combined investigating team of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry, Ministry of Security, and General Prosecutor's Office, currently on a business assignment in the state of emergency area, to comment. Asking that his name not be disclosed, he said with confidence that not a single operation in the emergency area, including raids to confiscate weapons from the populace, whether in Ingush or Ossetian villages, was conducted without a corresponding approval. He also dismissed charges of Russian servicemen's allegedly acting inappropriately with respect to the civilian population. All military personnel, the investigator said, are mandatorily briefed before each operation, with the attention of men and officers being drawn to "specific local conditions." [passage omitted]

North Ossetia's Elders Appeal to Ingush Counterparts

LD1104094793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0937 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 11 TASS—The text of an open letter by representatives of North Ossetia's senior generation to the elders of the Ingush people was released in the North Ossetian press today.

"We appeal to the senior generation of the Ingush Republic that is being resurrected, which has a vast experience of life and can assess more soberly the current situation in North Ossetia," the letter says. "The history of the existence of Ossetians and Ingushis as neighbours is the history of big and small clashes which caused bloodshed and grief. Therefore, the elders should consider everything thoroughly and decide the future of our generations. It is impermissible for us, ethnic minorities, to embark on the path of oppressing each other and, moreover, eliminating each other".

Comparative calm prevails in the limited area of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, which is under the state of emergency. Russia's peace-keeping forces keep the situation fully under their control. No shootouts and localised seats of armed confrontation on ethnic ground were registered over the past 24 hours.

However, the criminogenic situation does not improve in the region. Thirty people were detained for breaching emergency regulations in the conflict-torn area, around 2,000 cars were inspected, 12 firearms, grenades and other explosives and hundreds of cartridges of various calibre were seized from local residents.

The search group of the Russian Interior Ministry continues to work round-the-clock to define the whereabouts of those who went missing or were taken hostage in North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

International Affairs

Georgia's Shevardnadze Arrives for Talks

OW1204163993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1603 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Georgian delegation headed by Eduard Shevardnadze arrived to Kiev on Monday [12 April]. The delegation includes Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua and Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze, among other officials. Over 20 bilateral documents, including a treaty on friendship and cooperation, agreements on bank and customs relations, on a non-visa regime, are to be signed during this official visit.

On his departure for the Ukrainian capital, Shevardnadze told Georgian television that he intended to discuss a wide range of bilateral issues with the Ukrainian party and to consider issues relating to the conflict in Abkhazia. According to the Georgian leader, Ukraine's potential in the field of peacemaking activity "has still not been activated to the full extent." "Ukraine is a large state and its role to implement the guarantees for stability both in Europe and in the whole world is great," emphasized Shevardnadze. He also said that he had held earlier consultations on the Abkhazian issue with President Leonid Kravchuk. Forecasting Ukraine's possible role in the solution of the Abkhazian conflict, Shevardnadze suggested that Ukraine would send its own peace-keeping forces to this region.

"Ukraine is interested in establishing peace in this region, it is not only a political but an economic interest as well," Shevardnadze said. He believed that Kiev was interested in receiving oil products from the Middle Eastern countries via Georgia's territory. IF [INTERFAX] Note: Speaking on Georgian TV on the eve of Shevardnadze's visit, President Leonid Kravchuk said: "Ukraine and Georgia are two states which can play an important role in establishing mutual understanding and friendly relations." In Kravchuk's words, by using its opportunities and influence Ukraine was ready to do its utmost to find a peaceful settlement to the Abkhazian conflict.

Commenting on the results of the Russian-Georgian negotiations in Sochi in front of journalists, Shevardnadze expressed the opinion that this meeting "has prepared the ground" for the settlement of different bilateral problems, including those concerning the Russian-Georgian state border, withdrawal of the Russian forces, and determination of their status. At the same time he said that the Russian delegation was not ready to discuss all issues at the negotiations. The head of the Georgian state asserted "there are still too many issues left without answer." In particular, he said, the issues concerning the withdrawal of the Russian forces guarding the seismic laboratory in the village of Esheri and the presence of a Russian military unit in Gudauta had not been solved. The issue concerning protection for the borders between Russia and Georgia also remained open.

Shevardnadze saw the reason as being the "complex and contradictory processes underway in Russia one the eve of the referendum." He did not rule out the possibility that the delegation simply had to play for time until the referendum." Due to this, Shevardnadze believed, "one cannot but positively assess" even those results which had been achieved, in particular, in the field of trade-economic relations with the Russian Federation.

However, Shevardnadze believed that one meeting would clearly not be enough to radically improve bilateral relations "taking into account complex mutual relations, especially due to the conflict in Abkhazia." In Shevardnadze's opinion, working groups formed recently must develop possible variants of the final decisions.

Shevardnadze expressed the hope that certain agreements on the principal and key issues of Russian-Georgian relations would be reached during a summit. "There is no decision about a summit yet, however at the negotiations in Sochi both parties definitely expressed their opinion that a summit is not only desirable but also inevitable," Shevardnadze stressed.

On his return from Sochi Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua (head of the Georgian delegation at the negotiations in Sochi—IF note) told journalists that on the whole he was satisfied with the results of the negotiations. In Sigua's words, "the Russian party has showed good sense and made several compromises which it ignored at the beginning of the negotiations."

Sigua was convinced that a summit between Yeltsin and Shevardnadze would take place in the near future. However, military experts should hold a preliminary meeting to finalize their positions with respect to the withdrawal of the Russian forces from Abkhazia.

Meets Kravchuk, Views Cooperation

LD1204202393 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state and head of the Georgian Republic's parliament, arrived today on an official visit to Kiev. At Borispol Airport Mr. Eduard Shervardnadze and his party were met by Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council; Viktor Pynzenyk, vice premier, and other officials. [passage omitted]

Eduard Shevardnadze was received today by Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk in the Maryinskyy Palace. An official meeting ceremony took place. Officials who will be taking part in the negotiations between the delegations were presented to the heads of state. The guard of honor played the anthems of the Republic of Georgia and Ukraine.

Following the meeting ceremony there was a conversation between Leonid Kravchuk and Eduard Shevardnadze. A package of about 20 bilateral documents was submitted at the extended negotiations. As Leonid Kravchuk stressed at the beginning of the negotiations, they should create a firm international legal basis for long-lasting and mutually favorable cooperation between Ukraine and Georgia.

The negotiations were attended on the Ukrainian side by Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council; Viktor Pynzenyk, vice premier; and Mykola Makarevych, first deputy foreign minister. Present on the Georgian side were (Vakhtang Chaulishvili), deputy speaker of the parliament; Tengiz Sigua, prime minister; and Aleksandre Chikvaidze, minister of foreign affairs. Other officials from Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia were also present.

Defense Ministry Clarifies Position on Black Sea Fleet

OW1204174793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview to Interfax a representative of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine confirmed Kiev's position on the necessity of division of only the warships of the Black Sea Fleet and the withdrawal of its non-Ukrainian part from the territorial waters of the republic.

The agreement on dividing the Black Sea Fleet was struck at last year's Yalta summit of the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine, Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk respectively.

The issue of the withdrawing the entire fleet might only emerge if Russia renounces the idea of dividing the fleet or requires that Sevastopol is leased to the Russian side for a long period, stressed the representative of the press-service of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

He said the issue of the oath of allegiance the officers and cadets of the Black Sea Fleet remained open till all controversy linked to its division was resolved.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1400 GMT on 12 April adds the following: "According to the orders of Ukraine's defense minister, servicemen of the Ukrainian armed forces have been appointed commanders of those garrisons where Black Sea Fleet units are located. Also, financing of the Black Sea Fleet will in future only be sufficient to meet 50 percent of its needs. The military department has also refused to sponsor FLAG RODINY, the Black Sea Fleet's newspaper."]

Speaker Leads Parliamentary Delegation on PRC Visit

OW1204142693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the Ukrainian Parliament, led by its speaker Ivan Plyushch left for China on Sunday [11 April]. It had been invited by the chairman of the Steering Committee of the Chinese People's Assembly Qiao Shi. The Ukrainian parliamentarians intend to familiarize themselves with the pace of economic reform in China and establish inter-parliamentary ties. The delegation includes a group of Ukrainian businessmen.

In an interview at Borispol airport before his departure, Mr. Plyushch noted that after a long period of socialist development, China had firmly embarked on the road of the market economy.

Mr. Plyushch described Chinese reforms as very effective and said that Ukraine should take interest in how the billion-strong population of China could not only feed itself but export part of its produce.

Delegation Arrives in Beijing

LD1204224993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, led by Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch, arrived in Beijing today. At the capital's airport the delegation was met by [name indistinct], Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, and [name indistinct], member of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, and other officials. There was a brief conversation in the course of which some issues on the development of cooperation between the parliaments of Ukraine and the PRC were discussed.

Government Delegation Ends Visit to Oman

LD1304082093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1651 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu-Dhabi, 12 Apr—A Ukrainian Government delegation headed by the prime minister of the republic, Leonid Kuchma, today ended its three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. "During the talks and meetings that took place in Oman the foundations were laid for future cooperation between Kiev and Muscat in industry, agriculture, science, and culture, within the state sector and in private enterprise," the head of the Ukrainian Government said in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

L. Kuchma expressed "great satisfaction" with the results of the visit, which in his view has opened up to Ukraine and Oman broad prospects for cooperation. This cooperation will develop on the basis of be based on the "memorandum of mutual understanding in the direction of spheres of cooperation" signed today in Muscat.

On the Ukrainian side the document was signed by Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, and for Oman by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah.

An agreement was reached on an exchange of diplomatic representatives between the two countries, which established diplomatic relations earlier. The time of the exchange of representatives will be agreed later.

Oil Production Agreement Signed

LD1204214993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Ukraine and Oman have signed an economic agreement covering the oil producing sector as well. The Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko said the memorandum of understanding and cooperation the two countries have signed also deals with the problems in energy supply and Oman's possible oil exports to Ukraine. The agreement was reached at the end of a visit to Oman on Monday [12 April] by the Ukrainian delegation led by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

National Affairs

Defense Minister Discusses Army, Other Issues

LD1104160393

[Editorial report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1400 GMT on 10 April carries a 60-minute live phone-in interview program with Ukraine Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov moderated by announcers Vadym Zadorozhniy and Viktoriya Popovych. They open the program by giving the floor to People's Deputy of Ukraine Volodymyr Yavorivskyy who expresses his full support for the Ukrainian defense minister.

The first question is whether there exists an army in Ukraine, and to what extent the army has developed since Morozov was appointed minister of defense. Morozov replies: "I am sure, and I would like to report to all the people in Ukraine and our fellow countrymen that there is a Ukrainian army. It exists and performs missions for the protection of our independent state. A lot of work has been done during this period of time [since my appointment] in forming the Ukrainian army. This concerns formation rather than improvement, for we are so far dealing with the first stage, i.e. we are setting up our army, derived from the former Soviet army. Over this period of time the land forces' structures have already been made. Based on joining together the air force and the antiaircraft defense, the air forces are being formed. We are also forming our army [word indistinct]."

The second question concerns the main points of a draft military doctrine of Ukraine. Defense Minister Morozov replies: "The draft doctrine has already been passed for elaboration in the commissions of the Supreme Council. It will be examined in the near future. The main points are that the state follows a peaceful course. Ukraine first of all considers the issues that concern its neighbors, that is, Ukraine does not make any territorial claims against any states whatsoever, but at the same time does not accept claims made against itself. Ukraine does not look on any people as its enemy, builds relations between states, and excludes force or the threat of force in settling any political, social, economic, ethnic, ecological and other issues.

"By taking these positions now, Ukraine acquires the trust of the world. Based on the main theses of this doctrine, we communicate with our neighbors both in western Europe and central Europe, and in the world."

Viktoriya Popovych then quotes a people's deputy of Ukraine as saying that the military budget of Ukraine is 547 billion karbovantsi plus 188 billion karbovansti allocated to meeting social needs of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and to capital investment funds. The question is whether the budget is not too big, given that Ukraine does not intend to go to war. The second part of the question is on the numerical strength of the Ukrainian army.

In reply, Morozov says: "Well, whether it is a small or big budget is something to be answered by specialists. Meanwhile, specialists reach the conclusion that even this budget is not sufficient for all the planned programs to be carried out in the course of building our armed forces' structures. However, we adopt a responsible attitude toward the Supreme Council decisions on whether the state is now capable of, and has the possibility of, meeting our targets to the fullest extent.

"As for Ukraine's intention to go to war, I have heard these questions throughout my 20 months in office. Unfortunately, they have not been asked by the kind of people who want to make this issue clear to themselves. Instead, there has even been some sort of provocative—forgive me for using that word—purpose in asking these questions. My answer to that is exactly this: We have to have a strong Ukrainian army to ensure that Ukrainian territory will not be at war and that the Ukrainian people will not engage in a war against anyone. Now we are implementing a plan of reforming and reducing the numerical strength of our army. At present the personnel of our army number 525,000, and we are continuing the reduction to the number that was determined by the Supreme Council. We will put forward a proposal for 420,000 to 450,000 to be considered by the Supreme Council. Together we will know what decision is taken by the Supreme Council. No global task will be assigned to the Ukrainian Army, unlike the former Soviet army. This number will be determined working from the defensive tasks of our state, the protection of our borders, and our economic capabilities."

The next question, phoned in by Antin Yasevitskyy from Britain, asks: At present, there is no state border between Ukraine and Russia. In these circumstances, effective defense of Ukraine is out of the question. Is it so?

In reply, Ukraine Defense Minister Morozov says: "Dear Antin, sir, I agree with you. Building an effective state defense has to be done by us, together with settling and resolving the issue that you have spoken about just now. I maintain that there have to be borders between our state and all our neighbors. No matter whether there is a complete set of attributes characteristic of all borders, Ukraine has to have a border. I am convinced of this. Although the border troops are not included in the composition of the armed forces of Ukraine, I am participating in the elaboration of this issue."

The next question asks about the minister's concern about the issue of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. Morozov replies: "I share the concern of the people and of Ukrainian patriots, both in Ukraine and outside it, that are now looking very closely at our capabilities with respect to protecting our independence. This issue is very painful. It has politicized the public both in Ukraine and outside it. I would like to report to our listeners that all the documents concerning the ratification of the START Treaty, and others have been passed to the Supreme Council. Parliamentary hearings are opening in the near future, and the decision will be taken by the Supreme Council. As a representative of the executive power, I think that the Ministry of Defense will execute that decision that is made by the Supreme Council."

The second part of the same question concerns the attitude of the Ukrainian military toward the START Treaty. The defense minister replies: "You know, there are a lot of issues here lying beyond the limits of those opinions which can be expressed by servicemen and specialists, for this is a political issue. First, the state has to determine its policy on this issue. As for specialists, without a doubt they would like to continue the service in their chosen branch of service, and perform the duties that they may have learned in the course of their entire life. People are very concerned about jobs being lost. I understand them. But they understand it as well. They do not politicize this issue and do not interfere in it, since the Supreme Council has every legal ground for approaching it in a well-considered manner, taking into account all capabilities and interests of our state, and reaching a decision correspondingly."

Volodymyr, a Ukrainian listener in Moscow then phones in a question about the tasks of the social and psychological service in the Ukrainian army, headed by Mulyava; this service allegedly fans animosity in the army, according to the Russian press.

Minister Morozov replies: "Well I am very surprised that this issue is still being inflated in the press, in the Moscow press and, esteemed Mr. Volodymyr, I am very grateful to you for paying attention to this, and on the basis of your question I can come to a conclusion concerning your attitude. Well, undoubtedly, this is a false statement, undoubtedly, this is yet another slander. Again this is an attempt to test Ukraine and to cast doubt on our decisions. Mr. Mulyava is a patriot of Ukraine, he is a very balanced person and a professional. He is a Master of Philosophy, a scientist and a psychologist by profession. He is now working on putting into reality the concept of the social and psychological service of Ukraine. The concept contains the main approaches to the issue of educating our servicemen and creating conflict-free situations in our military collectives. This is the most painful and most important issue which can solve this notorious authorized hazing and bullying, and so on. This concept was examined by a Supreme Council commission; professionals and scientists were involved. All points were studied very thoroughly. And I will say to you that this concept is recommended for introduction not only in the armed forces but in all military formations of Ukraine."

Announcer Zadorozhniy, continuing the question concerning the social and psychological service, then asks Kostyantyn Morozov about the present state of affairs regarding Ukrainian language in the armed forces. He also notes that only one year ago the defense minister himself was hardly able to speak Ukrainian, but now his Ukrainian is beyond any criticism.

Morozov replies: "Thanks. As far as I am concerned, I had been studying the language assiduously and in only two months' time I could answer deputies' questions in parliament without a text. By the way, I graduated from a Russian school and did not have command of Ukrainian before. I myself and all my ancestors come from Donetsk region in Ukraine. They always lived there and they were buried there. My grandfathers and my father were buried in Ukraine. However, I just mention this in passing. As far as the introduction of the Ukrainian language in our army is concerned, I will tell you the following: In compliance with the Law on Languages an instruction, and an order were issued by the defense minister which established a mechanism for gradual transition toward Unkrainian, which has nothing to do with the forced Ukrainization, which we are accused of. We will solve this question step by step. Today we have all grounds for that because the personnel on the active list, our soldiers, are all called up from Ukraine and the majority of them have a normal command of the Ukrainian language. But we cannot re-train our [word indistinct] in case our officers do not have command of Ukrainian. That is impossible. And the mechanism has already been determined."

A question from Professor Dmytro Stepovyk from Kiev asks what proportion of Ukrainian officers, in Morozov's opinion, took a formal oath of allegiance to Ukraine and would break that oath if a potential enemy threatened to attack Ukraine; and would it not be better to get rid of these officers now.

Kostyantyn Morozov replies: "Mr. Professor, I understand you, this issue also worries me as a person who is responsible for it. However now, in a time of peace, we cannot say what percentage only took the oath formally and what percentage did not. Only some research can show that, but it cannot result in any final and specific conclusions because both you and I know that only practice is the criterion of truth. God forbid that this practice should ever take place but what you are saying, in my view, also exists. I think that we can only get rid of such people through individual approaches through the system of learning about each of them during the fulfillment of their duties. You already know such examples when even certain generals were removed from their posts."

Announcer Zadorozhniy then adds his own question about Morozov's attitude to propositions expressed by officers of the Ukrainian diaspora, those doing their service in former Soviet republics, on getting rid of those officers and high-ranking generals who took the oath of allegiance to Ukraine only for mercenary reasons and on appointing appoint conscientious Ukrainian officers who are now abroad.

Morozov replies: "I feel many such propositions, they make sense, because they are all directed only toward increasing the combat capabilities of our army, and I understand them. However, who can now define a criterion on who took the oath of allegiance as a person devoted to his people, and who did it for some mercenary reasons? This is studied during the fulfillment of a person's duties. If such people do not comply with at least one criterion—we put forward during the selection of cadres, in the first place, the criterion of professionalism; second, devotion to Ukraine and the idea of state independence; and third, honesty and human qualities. If a person does not comply with such criteria, undoubtedly, corresponding measures are taken with regard to that person."

A listener from Germany asks: Why does Ukraine provide for the fleet for nothing? Also: Does the strategic aviation have atomic bombs?

Morozov replies: "We have been financing the fleet since 1992. Now I can say that a decision was taken in line with the inter-state agreements, and the president of Ukraine supported it, that we will finance only part of the fleet—50 percent and will exclude all items which today work in interests other than those of Ukraine."

Ansering the listener's second question, Morozov says: "As far as nuclear weapons within the strategic aviation are concerned, we have the cruise missiles in Ukraine which are defined as those subject to reduction in compliance with START I."

Announcer Zadorozhniy then notes that military and political figures in Russia have criticized Ukraine on the grounds that the pilots who operate heavy, long-range bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons are losing their qualification because they are deprived of the opportunity to make daily flights daily. Does this correspond to reality?

Morozov replies: "To a certain extent I am also concerned about this issue. Strategic aviation pilots do not have full-scale opportunities to undergo combat training due to the difficulties we have with the fuel supply to our aviation. But we take all corresponding measures for this so as to supply them, and very soon this issue will be settled."

Announcer Popovych adds that on 24 March IZVESTIYA published a statement by Colonel General Pyotr Deynekin to the effect that Ukraine must bring the heavy bombers back to Russia because in Ukraine they would be just turned into scrap metal.

Morozov responds: "I know general Pyotr Deynekin as an expert. He served on Ukraine's territory and I know his current anti- Ukrainian sentiments. We will not be able to return the bombers on the principles which General Deynekin has in mind because they are the property of Ukraine, and if Ukraine's interests are not taken into account, we will not be able to agree to this."

A listener from the Netherlands then phones in to ask whether the Ukrainian Armed Forces can defend Ukraine's independence if reactionary forces should come to power in Russia; he also asks when the issue of the Black Sea Fleet will be settled, as Ukraine cannot remain unprotected in the Black Sea area.

Defense Minister Morozov replies: "As far as a threat is concerned in case the state system in Russia, our neighbor, changes, many supporters of our state abroad and many patriots, people in our Ukraine, are certainly concerned about this issue—not just you. We share your anxiety with respect to this. I can say that we in the armed forces take into account such threats, to our state and we can say that the Ukrainian Army will defend our state and the inviolability and indivisibility of our territory.

"As far as the Black Sea Fleet is concerned, I think you are aware of all the complications in settling this issue. We think that the division of the Black Sea Fleet can take place only with regard to warships. Under no condition can the territory or the infrastructure of Ukraine can be divided. And when the transitional period ends, the non-Ukrainian part of the Black Sea Fleet has to be taken outside Ukraine."

Announcer Zadorozhniy then asks asked what Morozov's attitude is to a proposition of Deputy Porovskyy, who suggested that all ships of the Black Sea Fleet should be given away since they are obsolete and a new Ukrainian fleet should be created on the basis of new ships which are being built in Ukraine.

Morozov replies: "Well, if we recall what exactly the main issue is in Russia's principles concerning the division of the Black Sea Fleet—it is, probably, not these obsolete ships but their presence on the territory of Ukraine, in the Crimea and in Sevastopol. If, in my own opinion, if handing our territory over is the price for dividing the fleet, I would suggest taking the entire fleet outside our state's borders and building our own fleet, and we are already doing this."

A woman listener from Germany asks the defense minister about the role and task of women in the military defense of Ukraine. Kostyantyn Morozov gives the following answer: "Women do serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, but they are not obliged to do this and they only serve voluntarily." The same listener also wants to know whether Ukraine is striving to become part of Europe and whether it agrees to unite with NATO. This, in the opinion of the listener, would be a practical step toward joining Europe and an important move against Russia's pressure upon Ukraine.

To this, Kostyantyn Morozov replies: "Ukraine is a European country. Our national policy envisages Ukraine's integration into all European and world structures, military structures included. We expand our relations with the military departments of the European countries, first and foremost, our neighbors. Agreements have been concluded between the defense ministries and we are establishing very close relations, in my opinion, with the NATO structures. I took part in the conference of the NATO defense ministers on two occasions. We were studying NATO's experience and believe that we will continue to communicate and to adopt this experience. Ukraine is an active member of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and we think that today it would probably be inappropriate to proclaim our intentions concerning joining NATO, because the NATO leadership is not considering the possibility of admitting new members. But we will cooperate with NATO without fail."

Announcer Popovych asks about Morozov's visit to Brussels and his conversation with the U.S. deputy defense secretary on cooperation between the armed forces of Ukraine and the United States. She also asks if Morozov intends to visit the United States.

Morozov replies: "Yes, we had a lengthy and quite a productive conversation with Mr. Perry. We discussed a proposal on broadening ties between the ministers of defense of Ukraine and the United States. I should say that we already have good relations. We established such relations during my previous visit in 1992, and I was very pleased that Mr. Perry expressed the attitudes on these issues of Mr. Aspin, the new secretary of defense. We discussed the training of our officers, the use of military training establishments, and the secondment of our military officers in the army [as heard], and I accepted this with satisfaction. We discussed assistance in creating a conversion program for the military industrial complex and on officers and cadets of our armed forces visiting U.S. military units. With regard to the visit, I accepted it with satisfaction and consider that this year everything will be implemented at a convenient time after an agreement."

A caller from Chernigov asks about the law on military service and whether it applies to recruits being drafted into the army in November. Defense Minister Morozov replies: "No. The instructon of the defense minister has now been published in the press in accordance with the decree of the president. Only those who have served two years or a person with higher education who has served one year will be released, that is, the November 1991 draft will be released in the autumn. Those who were drafted in the Spring of 1992 will undergo service for 18 months."

Another caller asks the meeting of defense ministers of the Visegrad group of countries in Brussels on 29 March, and why Ukraine did not take part in this.

Morozov replies: "We were not invited to this conference, and this is normal because this Visegrad trio is organized by an appropriate agreement, but we will cooperate. We have many common issues which can be resolved in the interest of our states."

The next caller asks whether Ukraine should become a member of NATO and if so, on what conditions.

Morozov responds: "During General Shalikashvili's official visit to Ukraine—he is the commander in chief of NATO unified forces in Europe and commander in chief of the US Armed Forces of NATO in Europe—we had a conversation and these issues were resolved and we equally understand that although the admittance of new members to the alliance does not stop and entry is free, today the NATO leadership considers that a decision cannot be accepted with regard to one country and rejected with regard to another. Therefore, we have not declared our intentions to join NATO. We understand this position and insist on developing our cooperation."

A listener from Great Britain phones in with three questions: when words of command in the Ukrainian language will be developed, whether a history of the Ukrainian army has been published yet, and about a relative from Western Ukraine who is doing his service in Sevastopol and who took the oath of allegiance under the red flag and in Russian. Morozov says:

"Military regulations have already been developed and the Military Board of the Ministry of Defense approved them and they have now been submitted for examination by the Supreme Council. If a long time is necessary for studying them we will make a proposition for them to be introduced on a temporary basis by a decree of the president of Ukraine."

The anchorman wants to clarify whether the minister means that they would be introduced on a temporary basis or urgently. Morozov said he means "on a temporary basis" while the Supreme Council studies the draft.

Morozov continues: "As far as the second question is concerned, the history of the Ukrainian army, I am familiar with this publication by Tektor. It has been disseminated here. Our publishing houses received orders and we are now publishing a certain number of copies so that all our military units can have them. Citizens of Ukraine and our countrymen abroad helped us very much in this matter and we are now tackling this issue.

"As far as your nephew's oath of allegiance is concerned, yes, it is a very unpleasant thing for me to hear. However, I know that in our military units the oath of allegiance is now taken in a language of which a serviceman has a command. And if this guy was called up from the territory of Ukraine he had all the rights and, undoubtedly, he had to take his oath of allegiance in Ukrainian.

"As far as the flag is concerned, flags carrying the honor, the decorations of those military formations - they now remain in their formations. However in all military units we have our state flag and we have been taking the oath of allegiance to this flag almost for a year now".

A listener in France wants to know whether Ukraine agrees to take part in the intervention in Yugoslavia so as to stop the bloody war there, and whether Ukraine is ready to act as the United States acted in Iraq. Morozov replies:

"True, the Ukrainian battalion is carrying out a peacemaking mission on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In January I visited this battalion and communicated with the personnel. I was in the place where they carry out their very dangerous but very essential for people assignment. I was in Sarajevo and saw our guys. I believe that Ukraine has a possibility to expand its participation in the peace force. But it can do this only after an appeal from the UN Security Council and in compliance with Supreme Council decisions. We can either prepare and attach one more battalion or prepare and dispatch it to other places, and use our military transport aviation for the participation in the peace force."

A woman listener asked whether an officer can retire after 15 years of military service. Morozov explains:

"As far as the general answer is concerned, we proposed a law according to which a servicemen, an officer, after 15 years would receive a pension, for instance, 40 percent and then one or two percent for each year - it depends on a decision that will be taken. Unfortunately, there is no such law at present and we have very big problems at present with reducing the number of our officers. However I do not know specific conditions and, Mrs. Iryna, I would advise that you apply with a specific letter so that you receive a specific answer."

A listener from Moscow points out that Russia's defense minister dwelt on the air force in an interview for the Moscow-based NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of 9 June, 1992. In particular, he said that three brigades stationed in Ukraine had been transferred to Ukraine and the question was being tackled concerning the 98th Airborne Division stationed in Bolgrad, Odessa Oblast. Grachev said at that time it was under his command. Its personnel does not take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine and is not going to do this. In its turn, Ukraine does not want to have units on its territory which did not swear allegiance to Ukraine. The listener is therefore interested to know about the fate of the Bolgrad division. Morozov says:

"The Bolgrad division is a military formation which we are in great need of for all kinds of reasons: for issues of its disposition, training, and designation. And I share your concern. We have been working on this issue all the time. Today I can report that the decision has been taken. The personnel who decided to serve in the Ukrainian army, in our armed forces, have already been provided with a corresponding legal basis. The division commander has been appointed. It will be a Ukrainian division. The swearing-in has been organized. And those officers who would like to be transferred on their own wish will be taken outside Ukraine. We shall solve all their problems and render appropriate assistance to them. In other words, this issue has already been solved."

The anchorman asks him what percentage of officers in Ukraine who refused to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine and left the republic. Morozov replies:

"By mid-1992 altogether 10,600 officers had been transferred beyond he borders of Ukraine in connection with this."

A listener from Kiev asks what the Defense Ministry's attitude is to pre-conscription military training in schools and whether or not it is necessary at all since there is no clause on such training. The trainers' pay is low and many are leaving their jobs. Morozov states:

"I expect that you know in what conditions the law on the military duty and the military service as regards these articles was adopted. I will remind you that Articles 8 and 9 of this law caused the most contradictory speeches by deputies in the Supreme Council. But my stand is that pre-conscription military training is extremely necessary for Ukraine. We have to further increase the influence upon young people in the issues of patriotic education and to organize training in schools. Undoubtedly, there must be a clause. I am now going back to study this issue, to see what condition it is in. As far as pay and settling all problems of people who are involved in training is concerned, undoubtedly, you are right, great attention should be paid to this."

A llistener from Germany asks why Ukraine regards itself as the owner of the nuclear weapons' separate components only, and not of the nuclear weapons as a whole. Noting that Ukraine says that it will ratify START I or START II only when it receives U.S. guarantees, the listener whether the U.S. guarantees are of any worth. Morozov states:

"Ukraine indeed regards itself as the owner of components which comprise the nuclear weapons and the stocks of materials and capital equipment contained in the nuclear weapons. These are Ukraine's minimum requirements, since the weapons, as property and stocks are on our state's territory and are our people's property.

"You know that it never was Ukraine that acquired nuclear status. This is the legacy of the former Soviet Union. But considering now the main principles of our security, this issue has to be taken into account. That is why the Supreme Council is so thoroughly, painstakingly and carefully examining these documents before ratifying them. I think that the Supreme Council will consider all the pros and cons and will take a decision correspondingly.

"As for our security, we regard it as not only dependent on someone giving us guarantees or not. We have to build our own relations with our neighboring states and world states and form our own armed forces which will be capable of protecting our state and our territory in practice."

The anchorman asks a question about the statement by the press service of the Ministry of Defense in which Russia is accused of violating Yalta agreements concerning the Black Sea Fleet. It also appealed to the parliament with a proposition to denounce this treaty. So the question is about Kravchuk's reaction and that of parliament. Morozov says:

"It is noted in the statement by the Ministry of Defense that the Ministry studies numerous appeals concerning the examination of the possibility of submitting a proposition to the Supreme Council as regards examining the possibility of suspending the Yalta agreement. In other words the situation is being studied. I am informed of views of certain people's deputies who insist on this because they also proceed from being aware of that complex situation which exists now around the issue of the Black Sea Fleet. Therefore I think this issue is very important, it has not only one side to it but it also has relevant consequences if one should approach it with such a one- sided and unbalanced view. "

The president knows about the complications around the issue of the Black Sea Fleet and around all problems of our servicemen, which are not solved yet, and by his corresponding decisions he makes it possible for the Ministry of Defence to settle these issues gradually."

The program presenter asks the defense minister about ways of ensuring reliability of security guarantees to Ukraine. Morozov says:

"Undoubtedly, this should be not just an unfounded statement concerning these guarantees. The guarantees must be at the level of interstate agreements on issues which are today of concern to the people of Ukraine. This goes for inadmissibility of territorial claims to our state, for the exclusion of those conditions which may renew these issues, and, as you know, there are many such issues today. Or the agreements must be both bilateral and trilateral, or bilateral, without Ukraine's participation, however agreed with Ukraine and its national interests."

The presenter voices apprehension for the fact that the change of leadership in the countries which are to give security guarantees to Ukraine could lead to the violation of these guarantees. Another presenter says at a time when the Yalta agreement can still be denounced, Ukraine could be too late if it decides to denounce any agreements on nuclear weapons. Morozov replies:

"You are right. I believe that we ourselves must create all these guarantees. First and foremost, these are the effectiveness of economic transformations, formation of a democratic state, Ukraine's integration into the European and world structures, good- neighborly relations with our neighbors, above all, with Russia, and the development of our capable and battleworthy armed forces. These are our guarantees we are to rely upon."

The presenters wind up by thanking the defense minister for his participation in the phone-in and end the program.

Security Chief on Country's National Situation

OW1204191993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief of the Ukrainian security service Yevgeniy Marchuk believes that the situation in his country is no easy one. Speaking at the Institute of State Management at the Cabinet of Ministers in Kiev on Monday [12 April] Marchuk said that the socio-economic crisis was the most serious threat to Ukrainian statehood.

At the same time Marchuk was optimistic about the future of his country. He said local bodies of power, in the first place, law-enforcement bodies, must pool efforts in order to prevent actions by various functionaries and criminal elements from producing an uncontrollable situation.

Marchuk said there were no ethnic conflicts in Ukraine. However, the Ukrainian security service chief admitted that religious conflicts were a powder keg. Marchuk said the worst thing was that those conflicts had affected the Russian Orthodox Church. He said the main measures by the security service to prevent inter- confessional discord were the gathering of information and the timely warning of the local bodies of power, as well as concrete preventive measures against certain functionaries who "speculated on religion".

Marchuk described as a serious problem the situation in the Ukrainian army. He noted both social and criminal problems, including the theft of weapons and ammunition. Marchuk described the process of reforming the former Soviet Army units in Ukraine into a national army as "very painful".

About external threats to Ukraine Marchuk said he would point to activity by some public associations in Romania, Poland, Russia and Hungary, having territorial claims against his country. He said those associations had a certain influence on the public opinion in their countries. The Ukrainian security service chief said that the activity of those organizations should be neither exaggerated nor ignored.

The situation in the Crimea Marchuk described as "complicated and controversial". He said the main negative factors for the situation there were actions by what he described as chauvinistic pro-Russian organizations, the unsettled problem of the Black Sea Fleet and the resettlement of the deported peoples.

Marchuk said the security service was taking resolute measures to fight organized crime in the economy and corruption in the upper echelons of power. He recalled that the security service had detained the deputy minister of the external economic ties and several department chiefs of that ministry. A total of 97 people had been detained on charges of corruption and abuse in the foreign economic sphere.

Officers Union Endorses Retention of Nuclear Weapons

OW1204132493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Congress of Ukraine's Officers Union deems it necessary to address the republic's Supreme Soviet with a proposal to preserve nuclear weapons on the Ukrainian territory. Commenting on results of the Congress concluded in Kiev on Sunday [11 April], new Chairman of the Union Aleksandr Skipalskiy reported to journalists that the Congress has adopted a resolution which contains a demand to abolish the Yalta agreements with Russia as the Russian party does not fulfill provisions of the agreement with respect to the Black Sea Fleet division.

In Skipalskiy's words, the Officers Union's major tasks are the consolidation of the officer staff to create efficient armed forces of the independent Ukraine and the strengthening of social protection for servicemen.

The Congress also addressed the cabinet of ministers with a request to release Colonel Vilen Martirosyan, chairman of the Servicemen's Social Protection Committee and Ukraine's people's deputy, of his post as "he has not justified the Union's confidence."

The press center of the Defense Ministry reported to INTERFAX that the text of the Congress' resolution will be published following editorial corrections.

Reactor Shut Down at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

LD1204130193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 12 TASS—The first reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was shut down on Monday because of faults in the turbine.

Viktor Vasilchenko, chief engineer of the plant, said the reactor will undergo planned routine repairs.

There were no violations of safety rules. The incident is rated zero-point according to the international Ines scale, he added.

The fourth reactor of the Chernobyl plant exploded in 1986 causing the worst nuclear accident in the world.

Kravchuk Appoints New Minister of Cabinet

LD1204201693 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] By decree of Leonid Kravchuk, Anatoliy Lobov has been released from the post of minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in connection with his transfer to other work. By decree of the president, Valeriy Pustovoytenko has been appointed minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Kravchuk Dismisses Kiev City Representative

LD1204182893 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk has issued a decree on relieving the Ukrainian president's representative in the city of Kiev. The decree states in particular: Ivan Mykolayovych Saliy is relieved of his post of representative of Ukraine's president in the city of Kiev for gross legislative violations that appeared in the adoption of illegal instructions and for the non-implementation of presidential decrees and instructions and instructions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The decree also appoints (Ivan Petrovych Dankevych) acting head of the Kiev municipal state administration.

Compulsory Customs Control To Begin at Airports 15 Apr

OW1204175793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Government of Ukraine has resolved to introduce compulsory border customs control on all air routes to the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. It requires that border and customs inspection procedures are carried out at all airports in the republic, not only at the international ones as previously.

The decree is to take effect on April 15. Currently all passengers travelling to newly independent states are subjected only the inspection of luggage to ascertain whether prohibited from transportation by air are being carried.

Kazakhstan

Oil Deal With U.S. Company Called 'Deal of the Century'

PM1304084593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Apr 93

["Novosti" newscast video report from Kazakhstan by Dukesh Baimbetov and Valeriy Zhilyakov]

[Text] [Announcer] An agreement signed in Alma-Ata today has been described as the "deal of the century." A U.S.-Kazakh oil extraction and processing joint venture has been set up in the Tengiz oilfield. The deposit has frequently been described as another Kuwait. It ranks among the planet's biggest oilfields.

[Baimbetov over video of oilfield] Let me remind you that Tengiz ranks among the five biggest deposits in the world. Not for nothing is it called "Tengiz," which means "sea" in Kazakh. But the deposit is a rather special one and not easy to develop. It contains hydrogen sulfide and is located at a great depth under a (?sulforous) rock mass. Development without foreign technology and foreign experience with similar deposits would have been impossible. The U.S. Chevron Corporation offered its services. The "deal of the century" gained notoriety back in the times of the former Union. Subsequently, however, at Kazakhstan's request, an additional expert study was carried out, and fairer terms were drawn up. The main point is that 80 percent of the revenue from the exploitation of the deposit will go to Kazakhstan.

The project which, after many years, is finally to be implemented, also provides for the construction, together with other Central Asian Republics and Russia, of a network of transport routes, power grids, and a complex of processing enterprises.

The agreement on the joint development of the Tengiz field was signed today by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Chevron Board Chairman Kenneth Derr.

President's Resolution Implements 'Anticrisis Measures'

LD1204213493 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Apr 93

["Resolution of the Kazakhstan president on carrying out explanatory work in organizing the implementation of the program on urgent anticrisis measures and deepening socio-economic reforms"]

[Text] [no dateline as received] With the aim of ensuring the efficient realization of the program of urgent anticrisis measures and deepening socio-economic reforms and propagating the goals and objectives of the program among the population, I resolve as follows:

1. In April-May this year the heads of the regional, Alma-Ata, and Leninsk town administrations should organize discussion of the program and work out measures fors realization in the bodies of state management, and in enterprises, organizations and establishments, irrespective of their form of ownership. With this goal in mind, they should elaborate and implement plans for explanatory and organizational work, taking as a basis the specific conditions of the economy and the prospects for the development of the region, city, and rayon.

2. The National Council of Economic Transformations of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to dispatch to the regional administrations specialized groups, including staff of the presidential apparatus and the Cabinet of Ministers, republican economic bodies, and those who have elaborated the program, with the aim of rendering assistance in organizing its implementation and explanation.

3. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the bodies of state management should carefully examine the proposals of enterprises, organizations, and citizens, that are aimed at upgrading the mechanism of the program's implementation.

[Signed] N. Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 9 April 1993

Parliament Session Addresses Defense Laws, Appointments

LD1204211793 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received] The republic's parliament, chaired by Kayrolla Yerezhepov, continued its work on 9 April. Due to the objections of the president some of the provisions of the law "On the defense and the armed forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan" were examined again. The deputies voted for the wordings that were offered by the conciliation commission. The law "On the trade unions," also vetoed by the president, was adopted in entirety.

The parliament then examined the law "On higher education," which was earlier approved at the first reading.

The session decided to exclude from the agenda the issue of making amendmends and additions to the law "On citizenship in the Republic of Kazakhstan." Following a report by Zhanibek Karibzhanov, deputy premier and chairman of the State Committee for Managing State Property, amendmends and additions to the law on "Property in the Kazakh Republic" were adopted. [passage omitted]

The parliament agreed with the president's proposal on appointing Valeriy Temirbayev as ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation.

Elections of the chairmen of the committees of the Supreme Kenges took place. Murat Auezov and Abish Kekilbayev were relieved of their posts as chairmen of the committees and members of the Presidium of the Supreme Kenges due to their transfer to other jobs. Serikhan Zhakupov, who earlier worked as a first deputy prosecutor in Alma-Ata, was elected as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations and Inter-parliamentary Ties, and member of the Presidium.

Kamal Smailov, who earlier worked as acting chairman, was elected the chairman of the Committee on Nationalities Policy and the Development of Culture and Language.

Privatization Laws Adopted

LD1204200893 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Today the parliament, chaired by Serikbolsyn Abdildin, had a second hearing of the issue on introducing amendments and additions to the Law on Privatization and Dismantling State Ownership. As a result of the discussion which began on Saturday [10 April] the people's deputies approved these amendments. Amendments and additions were introduced in the Law on Economic Societies and Joint-Stock Companies. The Law on Lease was declared invalid. Then the people's deputies returned to the bill on the fund to transform the economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which earlier had been submitted for finalizing. The parliamentarians adopted the law on a clause-by-clause basis. The law on a return system of investment financing was also adopted. The bill on crediting of the branches of the agroindustrial complex and financing state measures was examined. The law was adopted as a whole.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Holds Talks With Turkey's Ozal, Signs Accords

LD1004211793 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Today, Turkish President Turgut Ozal continued his official visit to our Republic. The president of Turkey met with Kyrgyz parliamentarians led by speaker M. Sherimkulov.

The Republican Academy of Sciences held a formal ceremony on the occasion of awarding Turgut Ozal with the title of academician emeritus of our Academy. Then, in the Academy, the presidents of both countries met with the Turkish and Kyrgyz entrepreneurs.

In the afternoon, the Turkish president participated in the opening ceremony of Ivailovsky sheepskin-fur coat factory, which is a joint venture of Turkish and Kyrgyz specialists.

Today the high-ranking Turkish guests visited a horse racing festival especially prepared in the hippodrome in their honor and visited a circus.

The main event of the day was the official talks between President Turgut Ozal and the President Askar Akayev following which a joint communique on the outcome of the visit, an agreement on technical cooperation, and other documents on questions of economic cooperation were signed.

Government Adopts National Energy Program

LD1104193893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The Kyrgyz Government has adopted a national energy program for the years up to 2010. For this 500 billion rubles will be needed. This sum will come from the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan, joint stock capital and credits from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Some of the money will go to develop the coal industry. More than 50 percent will be invested in the hydro-power industry. Ninety water power stations will be built with the participation of foreign partners.

Supreme Soviet Session Opens

LD1304083393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] A session of the Supreme Soviet of Kyrgyzstan has started in Bishkek. More than 30 issues are to be examined. The problem of extricating the economy from crisis, the second reading of the draft constitution, and the budget are probably the most complicated issues.

Deputies Vote Against Land Reform

LD1304095193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 13 Apr— According to the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan, the land, minerals, water, and all natural wealth in the republic are declared to be the property of the state.

At a session of the Supreme Soviet of the Kyrgyz Republic (henceforth the official title of the state), which is in its second day, deputies voted by a majority of 173 votes to turn down the stipulation that "in cases and amounts to be determined by the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, plots of land can be owned by citizens and associations."

This clause, as President Askar Akayev of the republic has repeatedly said, was intended to aid the development of free enterprise in the countryside, but the members of parliament decided otherwise.

Tajikistan

Foreign Minister Outlines Policy Priorities

OW1304114393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Rashid Alimov has told IF [INTERFAX] that his country is following its own road without trying to copy Turkey, South Korea or any other country. He said Tajikistan proceeds from its geographical and political position, therefore today it gives priority to relations with Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The minister remarked that Russia's share in its foreign trade amounts to 70%.

Commenting on the decision of the Tajik government not to raise the subject of the withdrawal of Russian troops he said, "Tajikistan has never had its own army, border guards or air defence, so why demand their withdrawal, all the more reason given that a war has been going on in neighboring Afghanistan for many years and this needs to be taken into account."

The minister denied as an invention and provocation media reports assuming that the government was involved in the recent death of the leader of the pro-government Popular Front Sangak Safarov and the influential field commander Faizali Saidov.

He said Safarov had organized "the supporters of law and the constitution so that they could resist lawlessness and violence" and there was no leader in Tajikistan willing to get rid of him.

In recent times Safarov acted as a guarantor of security for Tajik refugees in Afghanistan, the minister stressed. "The Tajik government is not so foolish as to try to get rid of such an influential personality", he said.

Situation Worsens Along Afghan Border

LD1204125493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 12 TASS—According to a statement made by the Tajik authorities, government forces keep the situation on the most part of the Tajik territory under control.

However, recent events show that leaders of the armed opposition have not given up their plans to overthrow the constitutional government. This is evident from the worsening situation on the Tajik-Afghan border where Tajik militants are incessantly making attempts to break through to Tajikistan from Afghanistan. Anti-government groups continue shelling border guard posts at the Pamir section of the border.

Groups of the opposition scattered in nearby mountain regions after the defeat seem to step up their activities.

On Sunday, large-scale clashes between government formations and a 20-strong armed group took place several dozens kilometers away from Dushanbe, ITAR-TASS learned from military sources. From 7 to 11 militants were reported to have been killed, the same source said. The government formations lost five servicemen. It is not ruled out that the armed group had appeared in Gissare to carry out terroristic acts or attempt to break through into Pamir regions to join scattered gangs led by Commander Rizvon. On the same day, the government troops found a large ammunition depot in the Pamir region, including ammunition of the ground-to-ground class, the military source said.

Touching upon the situation in the Pamir region and Gorno- Badakhshan autonomous region, one of the high-ranking government officials described it as non-uniform. Despite an agreement on disarmament of armed formations in opposition to the government, which was widely advertised by the mass media, the process of disarmament, to put it mildly, is going ahead at a snail's pace with only one or two firearms surrendered daily.

At the same time Tajik leaders strictly observe the terms of the agreement so far, refraining from introducing troops into Pamir regions. Local observers do not rule out that opposition leaders are connecting their revanchist hopes with the tragic death of two prominent figures in the Tajik people's front, Sangak Safarov and Faizali Saidov, whose mysterious death is being accounted for by a growing number of versions.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov, Turkey's Ozal Discuss Economic Cooperation

LD1104151793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat April 11 TASS—The first day of Turkish President Turgut Ozal's visit to Turkmenistan ended by a ceremony of the laying of a stocking factory in the "Mir" collective farm near Ashgabat. The Turkish president also took part in the laying of a hotel in the Turkmen capital and a plant for producing children's food.

These events stressed the business nature of the first visit by Turgut Ozal to Turkmenistan. 18 Turkmen-Turkish joint ventures and seven offices of Turkish companies have already been operating in Turkmenistan.

It is expected that after Turgut Ozal's visit to Turkmenistan the volume of Turkish investments to the Turkmen economy will considerably increase which was confirmed by the results of today's meeting of a big group of Turkish businessmen with heads of Turkmen ministries and departments in which both presidents took part.

Today Turgut Ozal had a meeting with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov in the course of which the presidents considered the issues on the further expansion of economic cooperation between the two neighbouring states.

[Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish at 1000 GMT on 11 April adds: "President Turgut Ozal was received at Ashgabat Airport by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov with an official ceremony. In an airport statement, Niyazov said that Turkey demonstrated the greatest support for independent Turkmenistan through its investments and not just words. Niyazov noted that his talks with Ozal will contribute to the development of bilateral relations.

["In his statement, Ozal remarked that Turkmenistan implemented big reforms in the restructuring of the state as well as in the economic field. If this continues, Ozal stated, given its existing potential, Turkmenistan will become an important country in the region.

["The two presidents then proceeded to the presidential palace, where they conferred for some time. Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Turkmen Foreign Minister Khalykberdi Atayev also attended the meeting. Before the meeting, Niyazov briefed Ozal on the 1,100-km long Karakumskiy water canal, which stretches from one part of the country to the other.

["A meeting was also held under the chairmanship of the two presidents on the problems of Turkish investors working in Turkmenistan. Ozal pointed out that Turkmenistan has attracted the largest share of Turkish investments among the Turkic republics. The president also asked businessmen to contribute to the development of bilateral relations.

["Niyazov, in turn, remarked that the stability and legal structure in his country play a role in the development of commercial relations. Laws encouraging foreign investment in Turkmenistan, and allowing the establishment of seven free trade zones as well as private ownership have been enacted, Niyazov added."]

Niyazov Calls Russian Military Cooperation 'Fruitful'

LD0904215393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1041 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, 9 Apr—"Military cooperation between Turkmenistan and Russia is unique and fruitful, and the Russian Federation military is making an indisputable and invaluable contribution toward establishing the Turkmen National Army," President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan declared at an awards ceremony, at which the "Edermenlik" ("For Bravery") military awards of independent Turkmenistan were conferred.

The first to be awarded the national military emblems of distinction were Turkmenistan's Defense Minister Danatar Kopekov, and Nikolay Kormiltsev, deputy defense minister and commander of the independent, combined forces of the Turkmenistan Army, who has been given a new appointment in Moscow.

The award conferred on Nikolay Kormilets, who headed the military contingent under the joint command of Turkmenistan and Russia, dispelled rumors of his resignation following the arrest of Russian Federation servicemen under his command for various offenses, which included trading in weapons.

"There is no link whatsoever between this incident and the general's departure to Moscow," Turkmenistan's defense minister told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "Servicemen's lives are ruled by their own specific laws. As for the offenses by Russian Federation servicemen, the Turkmen military procuracy has instigated an investigation. In accordance with the ruling it has passed, the culprits will be handed over to the Russian Federation procuracy."

No matter how regrettable this incident may be in itself, the minister commented, it casts no shadow on the military cooperation between our states, which has been undertaken in the interests of mutual defense. During the eight months that have elapsed since the military treaty was adopted, a great deal has been done, including much to strengthen the status of Russian Federation servicemen.

Parliament Forms Constitutional Government Bodies

LD1204145293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 12 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat April 12 TASS—A session of mejlis, the Turkmen Parliament, endorsed the bill on local self-governing bodies in Turkmenistan, which from now on be named gengeshas. Until today, their responsibilities were fulfilled by city, settlement and rural soviets of people's deputies.

"It took lawmakers about a year to complete the formation of constitutional government bodies," Turkmen Mejlis Deputy Chief Aleksandr Dodonov told ITAR-TASS. "Its executive branch has already been formed: an executive presidency and local bodies—khyakims."

"While working on the bills on local self-governing bodies, we explored other countries' experience and commensurated it to new conditions. We took a good deal from the practice of Indian municipalities where the system of the participation of each resident in the territorial community's affairs was brought to perfection," Dodonov said.

Gengeshas will tackle independently all issues of local importance, proceeding from state interests and the interests of citizens residing on its territory, and implement decisions by higher state government bodies. The issues of property, budget, taxes and land relations fall within gengeshas' competence. In keeping with the law, they will handle them jointly with khyakims, local executive governing bodies.

In Dodonov's view, local self-governing bodies are the all- important lever of authority in an independent state during the transition period. Peace and tranquility in Turkmenistan will be instrumental to consolidating legal foundations in provinces, he stressed.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Meets Turkey's Ozal, Holds Bilateral Talks

NC0904195293 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 6 Apr 93 p 17

[Report by Muharrem Sarikaya: "President Karimov Rejects Turkey's Bureaucratic System"]

[Text] Uzbekistan sees Turkey as a "model" country in many fields, but is unwilling to adopt its bureaucratic system, President Islam Karimov told President Ozal, who is in Uzbekistan on the first leg of his visit to Central Asia.

Ozal laid a wreath at the monument of Ali-Shir Nevai, a renowned Turkish thinker, in Tashkent, on the second day of his visit to Uzbekistan. He was accompanied by President Karimov. Ozal and Karimov later held bilateral talks, which were also attended by businessmen. Ozal stated the importance of improving bilateral relations and proposed joint investments in telecommunications, cotton processing, and in the oil and natural gas industry. He also suggested that the Uzbek television network allocate a channel to TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] programs. But President Karimov, who believes TRT Avrasya programs are "open-minded," was not forthcoming. Saying that Uzbekistan wants to improve relations with Turkey, he said: "We regard Turkey as a model country in many fields, but we do not want to adopt your bureaucratic system."

The Turkish businessmen asked Uzbekistan to take measures to facilitate their investments. Later, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed bilateral agreements to obstruct double taxation and to cooperate against terrorism and drug trafficking. Ozal and Karimov held a news conference at the end of their talks.

Estonia

Russian Troop Withdrawal Continues Despite Rifts

MK0904120093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 93 p 3

[Natalya Pachegina report: "Withdrawal of Troops From Estonia Continues. Just Like the Russian-Estonian Talks"]

[Text] This was stated by the participants in the 10th "jubilee" round of talks at a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists. Russian delegation chief Vasiliy Svirin, Russian Federation ambassador at large, noted that he does not see anything sensational either in President Yeltsin's Vancouver statement or in Defense Minister Grachev's speech in Brussels over a pause in the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of the Baltic states, reminding those present that the Russian Federation president's directive on this count had appeared last October. It, the chief Russian negotiator stressed, spoke about suspension of the withdrawal owing to the incomplete construction of social amenities and accommodation on Russia's territory for Russian servicemen. Nonetheless the withdrawal of troops from Estonia did not stop for a day, Svirin observed, citing the following figures: Out of the 25,000-strong contingent of Russian troops stationed in Estonia in 1991, as of 1 March 1993 there were 7,600 left. In terms of military hardware the Russian "presence" is confined to 27 tanks, 186 armored personnel carriers, 166 infantry combat vehicles, 27 aircraft, 13 ships, and 3 launches.

Yet even these figures, as well as the pace of the withdrawal, as became clear from Estonian delegation chief Juri Luik's speech, definitely do not satisfy Estonia. Again the 144th Russian mechanized division stationed in the republic's capital was mentioned, as well as the nuclear installation in Paldiski—described in Russian Federation Defense Ministry documents as a Russian naval training center—and Russian intelligence centers on the republic's territory that, Estonia believes, continue to be used to "monitor" the Scandinavian countries. All the previous agreements with Russia on the troop withdrawal, Luyk stressed, did not contain any "additional conditions." They, in the view of the Estonian side, are nonexistent. At any rate, Tallinn is convinced: Problems of humanitarian nature connected with the condition of the republic's indigenous population with regard to observance of norms of international law and social protection in Estonia are under strict supervision of the international community, which in itself guarantees the republic moral support from European countries. A somewhat different opinion, to put it mildly, on the situation of former Soviet citizens on the territory of independent Estonia was expressed by Ambassador Svirin, who reacted to his Estonian counterpart's statement by referring to a resolution of the 47th UN General Assembly session that contains facts about discrimination against ethnic Russians.

The border issue, which is a longstanding one in relations with Estonia, aroused some animation. The Russian side stated that all attempts to revise the existing borders will unquestionably be regarded as a destabilizing factor in European life. Estonia, on the contrary, stayed loyal to its idea about a just solution of the issue: The territory of the Estonian Republic must be restored within the borders of the independent state of Estonia as of 1940.

Even so—and this was stated by both negotiating sides in a moderately upbeat tone—the process of the troop withdrawal, just like trade and economic cooperation between Russian and Estonia, must be continued, to which end a number of agreements were signed during the 10th round: treaties on free trade between the Estonian Republic and the Russian Federation, on most-favored-nation arrangements in trade and economic cooperation between the countries, on transit trade and the use for these purposes of Estonia's sea ports. All other (urgent) issues, namely material compensation for the ecological damage caused to the republic, Estonia's property claims over the "military real estate" located on its territory, remain, just like the draft treaty on citizenship between the Estonian Republic and the Russian Federation, outside the competence of the Russian and Estonia delegations; at least that was what Russian chief negotiator Svirin said.

Luik Comments on Troop Withdrawal Talks With Russia

LD0904110493 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Minister Juri Luik remarks recorded]

[Excerpts] Minister Juri Luik, leader of the Estonian delegation for Estonian-Russian talks, gave an impromptu press conference to journalists today. Over to Uku Toom.

[Toom] Minister Juri Luik considered it necessary to inform the Estonian public in detail, through the press, about the progress of the latest round of Estonian-Russian talks. Right at the beginning, the Estonian side protested recent statements issued by Russian officials, first and foremost Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's statement in Brussels and President Boris Yeltsin's statement in Vancouver. Here is Juri Luik.

[Luik] "Even if this is being done for the purpose of domestic or internal consumption, this will create an enemy out of Estonia, and later it will be very difficult to set aside this image of an enemy."

[Toom] As far as the main substance of the statements is concerned, i.e., suspending Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia, then—as Russian democrats are fond of saying, and as the Russian delegation also stated—this process is unstoppable.

[Luik] "It was stated to us here that in essence it would be impossible to stop the troop withdrawal, that no instructions exist to this end, and that the troop withdrawal will continue as and how possible."

[Toom] The Russian side presented the figures for Russian soldiers and equipment in Estonia at an open press conference, the same figures as recently handed over to the Estonian side. Even if opinions differ in respect of personnel—Estonian experts think that the figure of 7,600 men might be somewhat larger—then the figures for aircraft as of 1 March are already out of date. There are 27 attack aircraft on the list—not one of these is in Estonia any more.

The minister stated that preparations for a troop withdrawal agreement are indeed in their final stages.

[Luik] "The agreement includes issues connected with Russian property here—that is, real estate—and compensation for environmental pollution, as per our demands. Included are also our demands having to do with compensation for the use of land and, of course, this perpetual deadline for troop withdrawal. But I believe that by now it has already become clear to the Russian side—and believe you me, it sometimes takes them ages—that the end of 1994 is not an acceptable deadline and that there can be no compromise on the basis of this date."

[Toom] So much for the troop withdrawal. As is known, it has been decided to introduce a temporary preferential regime for Estonian-Russian trade. Compared with a free-trade agreement, it amounts to a step backwards, but undoubtedly this will be a step forward compared to the increased customs duty for Estonian goods that came into force 1 April. [passage omitted]

Juri Luik hoped that the planned meeting of Estonian and Russian prime ministers would take place soon. It would be very good if it took place before the next round of talks on 6 and 7 May. [passage omitted]

No 'Concrete' Progress on Frozen Assets

WS1304103693 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 12, BNS—Estonian officials remain in the cold for information on Russia's reported payback of Estonian assets frozen in the former Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Relations.

Juri Luik, head of the Estonian delegation for negotiations with Russia, told BNS that the subject came up at last week's talks in Moscow, however, no concrete agreements were made.

Head of the Russian delegation, Vasiliy Svirin, told the Interfax news agency Friday that the group reached an agreement to pay out the money to Estonian businesses and individuals beginning July 1.

Luik said that, according to a decree by President of Russia Boris Yeltsin, money will be paid out to individuals. Businesses will get their money back in the course of five years. The money flow will also depend on the relations between Russia and the country where the business is based.

Luik said that the Bank for Foreign Economic Relations was unable to say how much money from Estonian residents and businesses has been frozen. But, he said, Estonia possesses exact data.

"There must be a mistake somewhere," Siim Kallas, the president of the Bank of Estonia, told the Estonian daily PAEVALEHT. "This money does not actually exist in Russia."

Luik 'Ready' To Debate Opposition on Ties With Russia

WS1304103893 Tallinn BNS in English 2050 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 12, BNS—Estonian televiewers can follow the second public teledebate between the government and the opposition at the end of April most probably.

Head of the Estonian delegation at the negotiations with Russia, Minister Juri Luik said that he is ready to discuss the Estonian-Russian relations with the opposition.

Five opposition parties called for the teledebate last Thursday. They motivated the proposal to discuss the Estonian-Russian relations with the fact that "negotiations with Russia are unsuccessful, the Russian troops withdrawal from Estonia has been virtually suspended and the government has started to actively expand the citizenry of Estonia".

Luik reminded the opposition of the necessity of constructivity. Otherwise, the situation would be similar to that at the parties' round table meeting earlier in April which the most active critics of the government's eastern policies did not attend, he said.

Luik said that it would be better to arrange the debate on April 26 when the results of the referendum in Russia are known.

The opposition suggested that the debate be arranged on April 19 or on April 26.

Tallinn Wants No Dismantlement Delay of Russian Base Reactors

OW1304105193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1038 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia does not intend to let Russia delay the dismantlement of nuclear reactors at a Russian naval base in the Estonian town of Paldiski until the end of the century. This was the statement released by that country's Foreign Ministry on Monday [12 April].

In a telephone conversation with Estonian foreign ministry officials on the same day, the chief Russian negotiator at official talks with Estonia Vasiliy Svirin suggested that the Russian side would press for 1998-1999 as the deadline for the completion of the reactors' dismantlement.

"In such a case, there is a clear-cut turn backward in negotiations" - the statement points out and underlines that in no circumstance will Estonia accept the deadline, nor will it discuss it since "there can be no technological reasons for such a delay, the reasons can be only political."

At the same time, Mr. Svirin gave assurance that he had not told journalists anything that the Estonian side was ready to discuss the deadline.

Mr. Svirin reported in an interview with Baltfax on 9 April that the Estonian party had taken into consideration the fact that the Paldiski facility could hardly be pulled down by the end of 1994 for objective reasons, and the possibility of shifting the date to 1998- 1999 was being explored.

"At the talks (of a joint working group held 6-7 April) attention was focussed on the problem of moving fuel for reactors out. Russia has submitted a time-table, according to which fuel will be removed in the first 6 months of 1994, however the Estonians have objected, stressing the need for completing the withdrawal already this year", the statement notes.

There are two mock-up nuclear reactors on the grounds of the Baltic centre for training nuclear-powered submarine crews in Paldiski.

Foreign Minister on Troop Withdrawal, Human Rights

LD1104222093 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1720 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with Estonian Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste by unidentified reporter; in English with superimposed Hungarian translation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] How has Estonia's political set-up taken shape in the wake of the elections of autumn last year?

[Velliste] Estonia's political structure is rather similar to that of Hungary. We have also got three parties which make up the governing coalition. There are three strong parties on the opposition's side who act as critically as the ones in Hungary. It is extremely surprising what similar political paths these two countries are following nowadays. As regards the direction of economic progress, the problems of privatization, they crop up in the same way as here in Hungary.

[Reporter] However, there is a significant difference: The Russian troops are still in your country. At the Vancouver summit President Yeltsin sharply criticized you for your attitude toward the Russian minority, and he made the tempo of the withdrawal of troops depend on changing this attitude. What is your view on this?

[Velliste] This statement made by President Yeltsin is in sharp contrast to a document signed by him in Helsinki in June last year, undertaking the unconditional and soonest possible withdrawal of the Russian troops. As for our policy toward the minorities, I can say that three organizations, the United Nations, the CSCE, and the European Council sent a commision of observers as well as a fact-finding commission to Estonia, and these commissions unequivocally stated in their reports that democratic rights, the rights of the minorities are in no way violated in Estonia. The delegation of the European Council was led by your representative, Mr. Jozsef Bratinka, and this commission wrote a very favorable report on the situation in Estonia.

[Reporter] You are saying that it is Russia that violates the minority rights of the Finno-Ugric peoples living in its territory. You are accusing Russia of ethnic cleansing, mentioning specific cases.

[Velliste] Yes, I can say that the situation of the Finno-Ugric peoples living in Russia is terrible. Perhaps the peoples of western Siberia with fewer inhabitants are in the the worst situation of all. The Ostyaks and Voguls who draw their living from fishing and hunting, who are the closest relatives of the Hungarians—and their language is the most similar to yours—are forced to leave their houses around the Tuminsk oil fields. They are chased away from their hunting territories, because the state-run Russian oil companies need more and more territories. They treat ruthlessly the people who are living there, ignoring the problem of whether they will be able to survive under those natural conditions. One of the politicians of this small Finno-Ugric people, who spoke out against inhuman treatment, was killed. I think international organizations should investigate what is happening there. At the same time, it is a moral duty of the three brother nations, of Estonia, Finland, and yours, to help these people so that they may be able to defend their basic rights. [passage omitted]

We do not want to persuade the Hungarian government to take some unfriendly measure against Russia. All we are saying is that Russia should do something about the protection of the human and minority rights of Finno-Ugric peoples living in its territory. This is not an anti-Russian stance. We would like that handful of people living in Russia to live under human conditions, and this does not mean that we violate the rights of Russia. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Visits Denmark To Attend Economic Conference

OW1204203993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1903 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste is leaving for Copenhagen Tuesday [13 April] morning, where he will attend a conference of economic cooperation for the countries of central and eastern Europe.

On behalf of the three Baltic countries Velliste will make a report on the current state and future of the economies of the region.

The conference, arranged at the Danish government's initiative, will be attended by the foreign ministers of 32 European countries.

The Estonian Foreign Minister returns to Tallinn Wednesday night.

Dutch Foreign Minister Visits, Supports EC Membership

OW1204204193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1902 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Netherlands thinks Estonia is ready to become a member of the European Council and shall vote in favor of accepting it into this international organization. This was declared by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Peter Hendrik Koejmans at a Monday press conference on the results of his visit to Estonia.

In the course of his visit the Head of the Netherlands Foreign Service met with the President of Estonia Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Mart Laar, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Trivimi Velliste and the head of the Estonian delegation at the interstate negotiations with Russia Juri Luik.

Peter Hendrik Koejmans was certain Estonia's membership in the European Council would intensify cooperation between the European countries and would be one of the elements of stability on the continent. He drew attention to the high level of bilateral trade and economic relations: his country was presently Estonia's fourth major trading partner.

The minister was sure that the problems of the Russian-speaking minority of the republic woul be resolved in the best traditions of the Council for Security and Cooperation in Europe with careful attention to the recommendations by the missions of the international organization that visited Estonia. He was also certain that Estonia would become a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic State.

The minister emphasized that much attention was being paid during the visit to discussion of the state of affairs in Russia and Russo- Estonian relations. He declared that the democratic forces in Russia must receive all possible international assistance. "This will ensure peace and stability in Europe." The minister has called for resolution of the controversy over the withdrawal of troops from Estonia on the basis of the 1992 Helsinki meeting of the heads of states and governments of the Council.

On Tuesday [13 April] the head of the Netherlands Foreign Service leaves for Moscow.

Latvia

Foreign Minister Comments on Talks With Christopher

LD1304063493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] I will begin an exposition of Monday's events with the already mentioned news conference of the Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Georg Andreyev.

At the end of last week Georg Andreyev returned from a working visit in the United States. On Thursday in Washington Georg Andreyev met the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Here I shall remind listeners that this took place only a day after THE NEW YORK TIMES reported about the U.S. Administration's indicated meeting with the prime minister of Ukraine.

While staying in the United States we did not feel the least pressure; neither were there indications how Latvia should behave in the future, Georg Andreyev noted at the news conference on Monday, describing the talks with Warren Christopher as having taken place in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere.

What must Latvia understand by that? First, there was already a positive reply by Warren Christopher to a request by the minister of foreign affairs of Latvia for support for participation by international observers at the mutual talks between Russia and Latvia on army withdrawal.

In the near future the United States will send its envoy to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe who will support the participation of observers at the talks between Russia and Latvia.

It was also made known to the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that, for the time being, Russia is in fact refusing to talk with Latvia as an independent state.

In the course of the talks, Warren Christopher also received a package of proposals by Latvia on housing construction for Russian soldiers.

On being acquainted with the preparations to the Saeima elections, Warren Christopher assessed with appreciation the fact that 30 per cent of non-Latvians will participate in the elections.

There was one more fact, important in every possible way, mentioned in the course of the talks. The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher requested a correct understanding of the fact that the U.S. President has paid no attention to Yeltsin's announcement on the suspension of the withdrawal of troops. The U.S. stance on this issue has not changed, and the demand by the Congress that the U.S. President report in June on the course of the talks between Russia and the Baltic states remains in force.

During the visit an fisheries agreement was also signed.

Says Riga Ready To Receive Yeltsin

OW1204175193 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1634 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The announcement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia Georg Andreyev on the probability of inviting the President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin to the republic, expressed during the Minister's visit to the U.S. has been made without previously consulting the parliament and the government of Latvia. The Head of the Latvian Foreign Ministry informed about this while responding to a question by a Baltfax correspondent at a press conference devoted to the results of his visit to the U.S. from March 30 to April 10.

In a speech delivered at the Hopkins University on April 6 Andreyev spoke of the Latvian leadership's readiness to invite Boris Yeltsin. In the same speech he expressed his opinion that the recent remarks by the President on human rights abuse in Latvia and Estonia have been invoked by lack of adequate information.

Answering the Baltfax question, Andreyev also stated that not during preparations for the visit nor after it did he consult the Government or the Parliament of Latvia on the proposal to invite Yeltsin to the republic. He added, however, that he soon planned to discuss the probability of such a step with the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

Says U.S. To Help With Russian Servicemen Housing

OW1204192293 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1902 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the press conference on April 12, Latvian Foreign Minister Georg Andreyev said that he was pleased with his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher which took place in Washington on Thursday [9 April]. Christopher told me that President Clinton's silence should not be understood as his agreement with Boris Yeltsin's statements on the Baltic issue, said Andreyev.

During a press conference, organized by the U.S. State Department shortly after the Vancouver summit, it was announced that the Baltic states were confronted with political problems and that the Russian troops' withdrawal from these states was indispensable.

The State Department also announced that $6 Mn [million] had been allocated to the construction of housing for the servicemen to be withdrawn from the Baltic states.

Christopher supported Andreyev's proposal that international observers should be sent to the Latvian-Russian talks. He promised to send an American representative to the CSCE who would support this idea.

The Latvian Foreign Minister's adviser Inese Birzniece announced that on June 1, President Clinton would inform the Congress of how the Russian troops are being pulled out from the Baltic republics.

If the final date of the withdrawal is not announced by October 1, the Congress will consider the possibility of reducing humanitarian aid to Russia by 50%.

During Andreyev's visit to the US, the two parties reached the agreement that Latvian fishing vessels would be allowed to catch fish in the US 200-mile zone.

Says Baltics To Help Build Housing for Russian Troops

LD1004204093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2026 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington April 10 TASS—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have made a decision to render assistance to Russia in the housing construction for Russian servicemen to be withdrawn from their territories, stated Georg Andreyev, foreign minister of Latvia, on a visit in Washington, at a meeting with journalists on Friday.

He said that Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Latvia Anatolijs Gorbunovs, President of Lithuania Algidras Brazauskas and President of Estonia Lennart Meri signed a joint declaration, in which they stated the desire of their countries to render assistance in the housing construction for servicemen and welcomed the intention of U.S. President Bill Clinton to help Moscow in the similar way.

At the same time, the Latvian foreign minister criticized the Russian leadership, which, by his words, had not presented an exact timetable of the troops withdrawal.

In the Baltic states opinion, Georg Andreyev pointed out, the final date of the full withdrawal of the troops ought to be the end of the current year, while Moscow discusses so far the end of 1994.

The minister stressed that the aim of his visit to Washington was not getting U.S. financial aid, and that during the talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher the issue had not been discussed.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Opens in Riga

LD0804215993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The first U.S. Chamber of Commerce on territory of the former Soviet Union was opened in Riga today. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will carry out active work to facilitate attracting U.S. business and investment to Latvian economy, thus creating new jobs. Among the members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce there are famous international companies as well as many small and medium-sized U.S. firms.

The members of the Chamber of Commerce together represent existing and planned investment capital for the development of the Latvian national economy to the amount of 60 million dollars.

Lithuania

President Requests Meeting With Yeltsin Before Referendum

OW1204173093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] I've fulfilled the request of Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, who asked me to inform Boris Yeltsin of his readiness to meet him before the April referendum to sign the joint protocol on the schedule of the Russian troops' withdrawal from Lithuania and on military property," [no begin quotes as received] Chairman of the Russian parliament's Committee for Defense and Security, Sergey Stepashin, told Interfax on Monday [12 April].

At the official invitation of the Lithuanian Sejm, Sergey Stepashin paid an official visit to Lithuania, where he met Brazauskas, the Sejm leaders and the heads of the "power ministries".

Stepashin said that the statement to the effect that Russia had suspended the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltic states, made by Boris Yeltsin in Vancouver and by Pavel Grachev in Brussels during the NATO session, did not apply to Lithuania. He also said that unlike Estonia and Latvia, Lithuania had assumed a special position in relation to Russia and favored close political, economic and military contacts with it.

Official Says Vilnius Supports Yeltsin 'Unequivocally'

OW0904173593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1708 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania unequivocally "supports Boris Yeltsin's position and his new democratic reforms", the chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Lithuanian parliament Kazis Bobialis has said.

Interviewed on Lithuanian radio he welcomed the results of the visit the chairman of Russia's Defence and Security Committee Sergey Stepashin paid to Lithuania. Stepashin, who ended his visit to Lithuania the day before the interview, said that the Russian army would leave Lithuania within the established deadline, by August 31 this year. Stepashin said that Lithuania observed human rights and for that reason Russia had no complaints about the attitude to the Russian minority in Lithuania.

Bobialis said he hoped that the intention to withdraw the army in keeping with schedule and maintain neighbourly relations with Lithuania would materialize.

President Departs for Working Visit to Britain

OW1304112593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1039 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of Lithuania, led by its president Algirdas Brazauskas, is leaving for Britain on a working visit on Tuesday [13 April], Dr. Raimundas Rajeckas, the president's chief adviser has announced at a briefing.

Mr. Brazauskas is to meet with the British Prime Minister John Major on Wednesday. The program of the visit also envisages talks with the leaders of the Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Bank of England, with the ministers of agriculture, fisheries, food, and energy, and with representatives of the Confederation of Industrialists of Britain.

Dr. Rajeckas reported that no agreements were planned to be signed during the visit.

Apart from President Brazauskas and his senior adviser Rajeckas, the delegation includes the agriculture minister Rimantas Karazija and the chairman of the Bank of Lithuania Romualdas Visokavicius.

Mr. Brazauskas is expected to return on Friday, 16 April.

Brazauskas Appoints New Legal Adviser

OW1204170693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" featur —following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas appointed 43-year-old Rimas Andrikis to the post of his legal adviser.

Accepting the appointment, Andrikis said that to this day the Lithuanian juridical system had not been restructured. He is also convinced that Brazauskas may directly influence this process. IF [INTERFAX] note: Rimas Andrikis was born in Kaunas and graduated from Vilnius University. From 1977 to 1980 he worked as a people's judge and from 1980 to 1992 as a judge of Lithuania's Supreme Court. Subsequently, he was a practising lawyer. Last summer and autumn, he defended Lithuania's former prime minister Kazimiera Prunskiene, who was accused of collaborating with the KGB. Although Prunskiene's collaboration with the KGB was confirmed, Andrikis still believes that her case, like other similar cases, are still to be investigated.

Russian Supreme Soviet Defense Committee Chairman Visits

MK1304102693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 93 p 3

[Tamara Nikolayeva report published in "Lithuania" column: "Chairman of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Defense Committee Visits Lithuania. Sergey Stepashin Explained What He Meant Saying: 'As You Depart, You Must Stick Around.'"]

[Text] Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and Security Matters, has been on a three-day official visit to Lithuania at the invitation of the Seimas' National Security Committee. The Russian parliamentarian's trip has been substantive and was apparently aimed not only at establishing links between the parliamentarians of Lithuania and Russia, as was announced officially, but also at clarifying the situation that has developed following the well-known statement by Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in Brussels on suspending the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic republics. During the three days, Sergey Stepashin met with the members of the Seimas Committee on National Security and the Lithuanian state delegation at the talks with Russia, as well as with the territorial protection and internal affairs ministers. He was received by and had a conversation with Seimas Chairman Cheslovas Yurshenas and opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

Lithuanian newspapers front-paged stories about the Russian visitor's presence in Vilnius, offering detailed accounts of Sergey Stepashin's press conference on the last day of his visit in which Nikolay Obertyshev, Russian Federation ambassador to Lithuania, also took part. The opposition newspaper LIETUVOS AIDAS published a quotation from Stepashin's speech at the Congress of Russian People's Deputies on 12 May 1992. At that time he spoke about the sharply negative reaction of the Russian parliamentarians to a request from Lithuania's Territorial Protection Minister Audryus Butkyavichus to help Lithuania train experienced military cadres and also to help it with weapons. "And what are we seeing today?" the Lithuanian paper quotes Stepashin as saying. "All the Baltic republics have taken up a pro-U.S. orientation. But there is this great principle: As you depart, you must stick around. It is also applicable to the military sphere."

Incidentally, the meaning of this famous aphorism with respect to Russian policy in the Baltic states has aroused considerable interest among Lithuanian journalists, who asked Sergey Stepashin to comment on his speech at the above-mentioned congress of people's deputies. "'As you depart, you must stick around' should not be understood as a principle of imperial colonizing policy," Stepashin said. "It means only one thing in this case: It is necessary to remain partners and friends and to build relations between states on mutual respect for the equality and independence of each other. Both Russia and Lithuania have their own geopolitical interests and this means they have to live in peace together." Referring to the fact that he has authority from Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister; Vitaliy Churkin, the Foreign Ministry official overseeing the Baltic region; and Sergey Filatov, head of Boris Yeltsin's apparatus, Stepashin said that Russian troops will be pulled out of Lithuania exactly within the established time frame and that today this is no longer a problem. He stressed that the reaction from the Baltic states to Pavel Grachev's speech in Brussels has not been commensurate—after all, the time frame for the troop withdrawal remains the same. Sergey Stepashin gave an assurance that there is no need to be afraid of interference by Russian troops in the affairs of the Baltic states under any circumstances. He also explained that the law on concessions for military servicemen doing their service in zones of military conflicts, adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on 21 January, as far as the Baltic countries are concerned, applies only to financial concessions, and promised to take measures to correct some provisions of this law so as to preclude any ambiguity.

Stepashin expressed a very firm position responding to a question about Kaliningradskaya Oblast. He said that the future of Kaliningrad is that of an open economic zone, and Russia will not put up with any territorial claims here. According to the Russian visitor, he has managed to find some common ground in Lithuania over the question of Kaliningradskaya Oblast. Stepashin stressed once again that Russia does not link the questions of troop withdrawal with human rights violations in the Baltic states. As for Lithuania, the attitude to human rights there, he noted, is constructive and civilized, while, in general, questions of human rights protection should be resolved by purely diplomatic means.